APPENDIX G

PROJECT NOTICES

APPENDIX G
PROJECT NOTICES

This Appendix includes the following project notices:

- Request for Expressions of Interest Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Technology Demonstration Program—March 17, 2006

- Advance Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Technology Demonstration Program—March 22, 2006

- Modified Request for Expressions of Interest to Perform Site Evaluation Studies in support of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Technology Demonstration Program—May 16, 2006

- Department of Energy (DOE) Press Release "DOE Continues Path Forward on Global Nuclear Energy Partnership: Department Announces $20 Million for GNEP Siting Studies and Seeks Further Coordination with Industry"—August 3, 2006

- Notice of Request for Expressions of Interest for $20 million to conduct detailed siting studies for public or commercial entities to host GNEP facilities—August 3, 2006

- Notice of Request for Expressions of Interest in an Advanced Burner Reactor to Support the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership—August 7, 2006

- Notice of Request for Expressions of Interest in a Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center to Support the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership—August 7, 2006

- DOE Press Release "Department of Energy Selects Recipients of GNEP Siting Grants"—November 29, 2006

- Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership—January 4, 2007

- DOE Press Release "Department of Energy Releases Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Strategic Plan"—January 10, 2007

- DOE Press Release "Department of Energy Awards Over $10 Million for GNEP Siting Grants"—January 30, 2007

- Notice of Extension of Time to Submit Scoping Comments on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership—April 3, 2007

- Financial Assistance Opportunity for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Deployment Studies—May 9, 2007

- DOE Press Release "Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Increase Cooperation to Advance Global Nuclear Energy Partnership"—July 17, 2007

- DOE Press Release "Department of Energy to Award $16 Million for GNEP Studies"—July 30, 2007

- DOE Press Release "Department of Energy Awards More than $16 Million for GNEP Technology Development Plans"—October 1, 2007

- DOE Press Release "United States, France and Japan Increase Cooperation on Sodium-Cooled Fast Reactor Prototypes"—February 1, 2008

- DOE Press Release "DOE Awards $18.3 Million to Nuclear Industry Consortia for GNEP Studies"—March 28, 2008

- DOE Press Release "DOE Seeks to Invest up to $15 Million in Funding for Nuclear Fuel Cycle Technology Research and Development"—April 17, 2008

- DOE Press Release "U.S. Department of Energy and Tennessee Valley Authority Increase Cooperation on Nuclear Fuel Cycle Data"—April 24, 2008

R--EOI - GNEP Technology Demonstration Program

Solicitation Number: DE-RP07-06ID14760

Agency: Department of Energy

Office: Federal Locations

Location: All DOE Federal Contracting Offices

Notice Type:
Presolicitation

Posted Date:
March 17, 2006

Response Date:
March 31, 2006

Archiving Policy:
Automatic, on specified date

Archive Date:
September 30, 2006

Original Set Aside:
N/A

Set Aside:
N/A

Classification Code:
R -- Professional, administrative, and management support services

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Synopsis:

Added: March 17, 2006

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP (GNEP) TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from entities interested in competing, on a full and open basis, for the award of one or more contracts to perform site evaluation studies. These studies will evaluate prospective locations to host one or more demonstration projects in support of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). A total of up to $20 million may be available for the site evaluation studies, with no single award exceeding $5 million. The anticipated period of performance for site evaluation study contracts is 90 calendar days. The GNEP Technology Demonstration Program would demonstrate certain technologies that could change the way spent nuclear fuel from commercial light-water nuclear power reactors is managed. DOE intends to demonstrate three key elements that would comprise a proliferation-resistant closed fuel cycle. These key elements are: (1) a proliferation-resistant process to separate usable elements in commercial spent nuclear fuel from its waste elements; (2) the conversion of transuranics; and (3) an advanced fuel cycle facility. The DOE GNEP web home page contains further information about the GNEP program. The home page web link is http://www.gnep.energy.gov/. The anticipated deliverable under each site evaluation study

contract is a site evaluation study report containing detailed information about: the proposed site location (to be chosen by the entity submitting a contract offer and to which the offeror has a legally enforceable commitment to perform the project from the site that will be evaluated in the siting study); facilities (existing or new) that will be used in the demonstration project; federal, state and local regulatory and permitting requirements; project milestones; estimated project costs, including fees associated with meeting regulatory requirements; and other factors that may affect project success, including legislative or regulatory requirements and public perception issues. The site evaluation study will be used to provide information to support the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that DOE is initiating to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program. Given the importance of these studies in supporting preparation of the EIS, the technical, regulatory and public outreach expertise of site evaluation study contractors will be of paramount importance. In addition to siting studies, successful offerors may also be tasked to provide technical evaluation and reporting services to the EIS contractor during EIS preparation, public meetings, and the preparation of responses to comments. Collaborative arrangements for submitting site evaluation study contract proposals are encouraged. These arrangements may include, to the extent permitted by law, domestic private companies, not for profit institutions, state or local governments and agencies, academic institutions, non-government organizations, trade associations, etc. The location of demonstration project facilities is not limited to DOE sites, but may include other federal and non-federal sites on a strictly voluntary basis. This EOI is intended to encourage an open exchange of ideas regarding the solicitation, award, and administration of site evaluation study contracts. Entities interested in submitting a proposal for a site evaluation study contract are requested to submit a response to this EOI that identifies the entity [organization name, type of organization (private company, not for profit institution, government contractor, etc)] and a point of contact (including an e-mail address and telephone number). Entities submitting a response to this EOI are also encouraged to provide their thoughts and suggestions through the comment form on how DOE should conduct the acquisition and award and administer the site evaluation study contracts. In particular, DOE is seeking input on: · Contract type, content of the statement of work, and specific contract terms or conditions · Evaluation criteria and selection considerations, including any qualification criteria · Other considerations DOE should address during the acquisition (e.g., organizational conflict of interest issues associated with an entity supporting the DOE EIS and working on a site study contract) or after contract award The comment submittal form is available on the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program solicitation website located at www.id.doe.gov. Written responses to this EOI must not exceed four pages and must be received by not later than 4:00 PM, Mountain Time, on March 31, 2006. Send responses by email to Ms. Janet Surrusco, Contract Specialist, United States Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, at surrusjk@id.doe.gov Confidential or business sensitive information contained in the submission must be identified and marked accordingly. DOE will protect this information from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law. This EOI is not a formal solicitation requesting proposals and does not represent a commitment by the Government to award a contract. The Government does not intend to formally respond to information submitted in response to this EOI. The Government is not responsible for costs incurred to submit a response to this EOI, conducting other activities associated with pre-solicitation planning, or submitting a proposal in response to a solicitation if issued.

Contracting Office Address:
850 Energy Drive (MS-1221) Idaho Falls, ID

Point of Contact(s):
Wade Hillebrant, Contracting Officer, 208-526-0547, hillebtw@id.doe.gov;Janet Surrusco, Contract Specialist, 208-526-5477, surrusjk@id.doe.gov Janet Surrusco, Contract Specialist

turtles, provide information on population dynamics to improve stock assessments, and to better understand the distribution of turtles in time and space. Turtles that are incidentally captured during resource assessment cruises would be used by the SEFSC in their assessments of distribution and abundance of turtles, as well as the cumulative impact of the relevant fishery on the stocks. The incidental capture would accrue to and be authorized by the fisheries being researched. The SEFSC would annually handle, identify, examine, measure, weigh, photograph, flipper tag, passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag, skin biopsy, and release or salvage the carcass, tissue, and parts of up to 6 green, 17 loggerhead, 8 Kemp's ridley, 6 hawksbill, 6 olive ridley, 6 unidentified hardshell, and 17 leatherback sea turtles. Research would occur in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and their tributaries. The permit would be issued for five years.

Dated: March 16, 2006.

Stephen L. Leathery,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6–4159 Filed 3–21–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000–0026]

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Submission for OMB Review; Change Order Accounting

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000–0026).

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning change order accounting. A request for public comments was published in the **Federal Register** at 71 FR 2914, January 18, 2006. No comments were received.

Public comments are particularly invited on: Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the FAR, and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 21, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VIR), 1800 F Street, NW., Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeritta Parnell, Contract Policy Division, GSA (202) 501–4082.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

FAR clause 52.243–6, Change Order Accounting, requires that, whenever the estimated cost of a change or series of related changes exceed $100,000, the contracting officer may require the contractor to maintain separate accounts for each change or series of related changes. The account shall record all incurred segregable, direct costs (less allocable credits) of work, both changed and unchanged, allocable to the change. These accounts are to be maintained until the parties agree to an equitable adjustment for the changes or until the matter is conclusively disposed of under the Disputes clause. This requirement is necessary in order to be able to account properly for costs associated with changes in supply and research and development contracts that are technically complex and incur numerous changes.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Respondents: *8,750.*
Responses Per Respondent: *18.*
Annual Responses: *157,500.*
Hours Per Response: *.084.*
Total Burden Hours: *13,230.*

C. Annual Recordkeeping Burden

Recordkeepers: *8,750.*
Hours Per Recordkeeper: *1.5.*
Total Recordkeeping Burden Hours: *13,125.*

Total Burden Hours: *26,355.*

Obtaining Copies of Proposals: Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection documents from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VIR), Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501–4755. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000–0026, Change Order Accounting, in all correspondence.

Dated: March 14, 2006.

Gerald Zaffos,

Director, Contract Policy Division.

[FR Doc. 06–2751 Filed 3–21–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–EP–S

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Advance Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Technology Demonstration Program

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Advance notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is providing this Advance Notice of Intent (ANOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Technology Demonstration Program. The GNEP Technology Demonstration Program would demonstrate certain technologies that could change the way spent nuclear fuel from commercial light-water nuclear power reactors is managed. This EIS will inform DOE officials and the public of the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, which is to demonstrate U.S. capability to safely recycle spent nuclear fuel using proliferation-resistant separation processes and the conversion of transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes.

The proposed action includes three key elements that would comprise a proliferation-resistant closed fuel cycle: (1) The demonstration of separation processes in which usable and waste materials that are found in spent nuclear fuel are separated; (2) the demonstration of the conversion of transuranics; and (3) the demonstration of an advanced fuel fabrication process.

The EIS will evaluate all reasonable alternative technologies and locations for the key elements of the proposed GNEP Technology Demonstration Program. New facilities and

modifications to existing facilities might be required for the Technology Demonstration Program. The EIS will address siting, construction or modification, and operation of these facilities. DOE is issuing this ANOI, pursuant to its NEPA regulations at 10 CFR 1021.311(b), to inform and request early comments from Federal agencies, state and local governments, Native American tribes, industry, other organizations, and members of the public regarding the proposed action, the reasonable alternatives, and the potential environmental impacts.

DATES: DOE invites comments on this ANOI through May 8, 2006. DOE will consider comments received after May 8, 2006 to the extent practicable. DOE intends to issue a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the EIS later this year. After the NOI is issued, DOE will conduct public scoping meetings to assist in further defining the scope of the EIS and to identify significant issues to be addressed. The dates and locations of scoping meetings will be announced in the NOI, subsequent **Federal Register** notices (as needed), and in local media.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments, suggestions, or relevant information on the planned EIS and questions concerning the proposed action to: Timothy A. Frazier, NEPA Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119, Telephone: 866–645–7803, Fax: 866–645–7807, E-mail to: *GNEPTechDemo@nuclear.energy.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request further information about the EIS or to be placed on the EIS distribution list, use any of the methods listed under **ADDRESSES** above. Supplementary information on GNEP and the proposed GNEP Technology Demonstration Program may be found at *http://www.gnep.energy.gov.*

For general information concerning the DOE NEPA process, contact: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH–42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119; telephone: 202–586–4600, or leave a message at 1–800–472–2756; fax: 202–586–7031; or send an e-mail to *askNEPA@eh.doe.gov.*

This ANOI will be available on the Internet at *http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa* and *http://www.gnep.energy.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, DOE has launched a new initiative, the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). The broad goals of GNEP are to: (1) Reduce the United States' dependence on foreign sources of fossil fuels and encourage economic growth, while meeting increasing demand for electricity without emitting air pollution and greenhouse gases; (2) recycle nuclear fuel using new proliferation-resistant technologies to recover more energy and reduce the volume of waste; (3) encourage prosperity growth and clean development around the world; and (4) utilize the latest technologies to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation worldwide.

The proposed GNEP Technology Demonstration Program would involve the development of technologies to promote GNEP's goals. The GNEP Technology Demonstration Program would demonstrate technologies needed to implement a closed fuel cycle that enables recycling and consumption of spent nuclear fuel in a proliferation-resistant manner. While DOE has had some success at bench-scale testing of these technologies, it has not yet proven that these technologies will be feasible in demonstration-scale facilities.

The proposed GNEP Technology Demonstration Program includes three major projects that would be conducted in new or existing facilities. These projects would demonstrate: (1) Proliferation-resistant processes that would separate the usable elements in commercial spent nuclear fuel from its waste elements; (2) the conversion of transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes; and (3) operation of an advanced fuel fabrication facility. The GNEP Technology Demonstration Program EIS will address siting, construction or modification, and operation of these demonstration-scale facilities. (Decontamination and decommissioning of these facilities will be addressed in one or more future NEPA analyses.)

In addition, DOE anticipates preparing a separate NEPA analysis at a later date that would address the environmental impacts of potential future actions to encourage the commercial-scale adoption of these technologies for the management of spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power reactors, as well as alternatives. At that time, DOE anticipates preparing a programmatic EIS that would address the potential environmental consequences of the widespread deployment of proliferation-resistant spent nuclear fuel separation technologies, technologies that consume transuranics while extracting their energy, and fuel fabrication technologies, including those technologies that are the subject of the Technology Demonstration Program.

As discussed above, the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program includes three major projects.

1. Demonstration of an Advanced Separation Process

Under the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program, DOE would demonstrate the capability to safely recycle spent nuclear fuel from commercial light-water nuclear power reactors using proliferation-resistant separation processes. In support of this effort, DOE would conduct demonstration-scale testing of a process that would separate the usable elements in spent commercial nuclear fuel from its waste elements.

Spent nuclear fuel contains uranium, transuranics (plutonium and other long-lived radioactive material), and fission products. The fission products are waste and make up less than five percent of the used fuel. The buildup of the fission products inhibits the nuclear fission reaction, so used fuel must be removed from a nuclear power plant. In order to consume transuranics and uranium, while recovering their energy content, the transuranics and uranium would be separated from the fission products and then fabricated into new fuel.

The GNEP Technology Demonstration Program would use advanced separation processes (such as, but not necessarily limited to, Uranium Extraction Plus, or UREX+). As discussed below, the products of these advanced separation processes can be used in a facility such as a fast reactor that would consume transuranics to produce energy.

2. Demonstration of the Conversion of Transuranics

DOE would demonstrate the destruction of transuranics separated from spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power plants. To destroy the transuranics, DOE would take advantage of high-energy neutrons to fission, or split apart, long-lived transuranics and transmute, or convert, them into shorter-lived radioisotopes. DOE will consider a facility such as, but not necessarily limited to, a fast reactor as a source of high-energy neutrons. As transuranics are consumed, significant energy is released and can be converted into electricity, thereby producing useful energy from material that would otherwise be waste.

3. Demonstration of a Proliferation-Resistant Fuel Cycle and Advanced Fuel Fabrication

DOE would demonstrate the fabrication, testing, and qualification of advanced fuel forms in a multi-hot cell, multi-purpose research, development, and demonstration laboratory that can serve fuel cycle testing needs. The facility would use modular, flexible construction technologies with the near-term objective to fabricate and qualify fuels to be used in the facility for the conversion of transuranics.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program is to demonstrate U.S. capability to safely recycle spent nuclear fuel using proliferation-resistant separation processes and the conversion of transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes. DOE needs to identify and demonstrate technologies and identify the locations where those technologies would be demonstrated.

Potential Range of Alternatives

As part of the NEPA process, DOE will consider and evaluate all reasonable alternatives, including those identified in response to the ANOI, NOI, and during the public scoping process. DOE will also evaluate a No Action alternative.

Invitation To Comment

DOE invites Federal agencies, state and local governments, Native American tribes, industry, other organizations, and members of the public to provide comments on the proposed scope, alternatives (both technology and siting), and environmental issues to be analyzed in the forthcoming EIS for the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program. DOE will consider all such comments and other relevant information in developing an NOI. Comments on this ANOI should be submitted as described under **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** above.

Potential Environmental Issues for Analysis

DOE has tentatively identified the following environmental issues for analysis in the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program EIS. The list is presented to facilitate early comment on the scope of the EIS; it is not intended to be comprehensive nor to predetermine the alternatives to be analyzed or their potential impacts.

- Potential impacts to the general population and workers from radiological and nonradiological releases.
- Potential impacts of emissions on air and water quality.
- Potential impacts on flora and fauna of a region.
- Potential transportation impacts from the shipment of radioactive materials and waste.
- Potential impacts from postulated accidents.
- Potential disproportionately high and adverse effects on low-income and minority populations (environmental justice).
- Potential Native American concerns.
- Short-term and long-term land use impacts.
- Compliance with applicable Federal and state regulations.
- Long-term health and environmental impacts.
- Long-term site suitability.

NEPA Process

DOE plans to publish the NOI for the proposed GNEP Technology Demonstration Program EIS in the **Federal Register** later this year. The NOI will identify the technologies and sites that DOE proposes to evaluate as reasonable alternatives in the EIS. Following the publication of the NOI, there will be a 60-day public scoping period. Subsequently, DOE will announce the availability of the Draft EIS in the **Federal Register** and other media outlets. Federal agencies, state and local governments, Native American tribes, industry, other organizations, and members of the public will have an opportunity to submit comments. These comments will be considered and addressed in the Final EIS. DOE will issue a Record of Decision(s) no sooner than 30 days after publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the Final EIS. DOE might announce its decision to implement all three projects in a single Record of Decision or in separate Records of Decision.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 16, 2006.

C. Russell H. Shearer,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. E6–4162 Filed 3–21–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #1

March 15, 2006.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings.

Docket Numbers: ER96–1551–014; ER01–615–010; EL05–2–000.

Applicants: Public Service Company of New Mexico.

Description: Public Service Co of New Mexico submits an amendment to its July 15, 2005 compliance filing and requests FERC to consider the information submitted as further evidence that PNM lacks generation market power etc.

Filed Date: March 10, 2006.

Accession Number: 20060314–0015.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, March 31, 2006.

Docket Numbers: ER03–447–004.

Applicants: Black Oak Energy, LLC.

Description: Black Oak Energy LLC submits an amendment to its triennial updated market analysis filed on February 13, 2006.

Filed Date: March 9, 2006.

Accession Number: 20060310–0182.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, March 30, 2006.

Docket Numbers: ER06–464–001.

Applicants: Highlands Energy Group LLC.

Description: Highlands Energy Group LLC submits a petition for acceptance of initial rate schedule, waivers and blanket authority. Highland also amended its filing on March 10, 2006, including a revised tariff per the Commission's request.

Filed Date: March 8, 2006.

Accession Number: 20060313–0130.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

Docket Numbers: ER06–710–000.

Applicants: New York Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: New York Independent System Operator, Inc submits revisions to its open access transmission tariff & market administration and control area services tariff to allow three additional forms of credit support etc.

Filed Date: March 8, 2006.

Accession Number: 20060315–0019.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

Docket Numbers: ER06–711–000.

Applicants: Hunlock Creek Energy Ventures.

Description: Hunlock Creek Energy Ventures submits a Notice of

R--EOI - GNEP Technology Demonstration Program

Solicitation Number: DE-RP07-06ID14760

Agency: Department of Energy

Office: Federal Locations

Location: All DOE Federal Contracting Offices

Notice Type:
Modification/Amendment

Original Posted Date:
March 17, 2006

Posted Date:
May 16, 2006

Response Date:
-

Original Response Date:
March 31, 2006

Archiving Policy:
Automatic, on specified date

Archive Date:
September 30, 2006

Original Set Aside:
N/A

Set Aside:
N/A

Classification Code:
R -- Professional, administrative, and management support services

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Synopsis:

Added: March 17, 2006 Modified: May 16, 2006 Track Changes

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy is providing additional information relating to its March 17, 2006, Request for Expressions of Interest to perform Site Evaluation Studies in support of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Technology Demonstration Program. DOE is providing clarifying information regarding the scope of the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program and notification of the revised approach for awarding funding necessary to complete the site studies. DOE will make final decisions on the siting of GNEP Technology Demonstration Program projects after completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program. (Advance Notice of Intent, 71 FR 14505, March 22, 2006). The EIS will evaluate the reasonable siting alternatives, including the location(s) of technology demonstration projects at

DOE and potentially non-DOE sites. DOE desires to have a broad range of sites be considered for the technology demonstration projects, including non-DOE sites. The eligibility for award to conduct Site Evaluation Studies will be limited to domestic non-DOE sites. The restriction to non-DOE sites applies regardless of the entity that would intend to propose to conduct a project on a DOE site. The decision to limit awards to non-DOE sites does not affect the ultimate eligibility of DOE sites for the siting of projects under GNEP Technology Demonstration Program. DOE decided to restrict eligibility to non-DOE sites because DOE sites are generally well-characterized, and additional information required to support the development of the EIS can be obtained by tasking DOE contractors directly through their existing contracts. The anticipated requirements and deliverables for the site evaluation studies remain unchanged from the Request for Expressions of Interest. It is important for entities who are interested in being considered for hosting a technology demonstration project to be aware that the technology demonstration project(s) will require the storage of nuclear materials to support the demonstration facility activities. In particular, the demonstration of a spent nuclear fuel recycling facility will require the hosting site to accept and store spent nuclear fuel as feed into the separations process.

Contracting Office Address:
850 Energy Drive (MS-1221) Idaho Falls, ID

Point of Contact(s):
Wade Hillebrant, Contracting Officer, 208-526-0547, hillebtw@id.doe.gov;Janet Surrusco, Contract Specialist, 208-526-5477, surrusjk@id.doe.gov Janet Surrusco, Contract Specialist

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Opportunity History

- Original Synopsis
  Presolicitation
  Mar 17, 2006
  7:00 pm
- **Changed**
  May 16, 2006
  12:00 am

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact(s):
Craig Stevens, (202) 586-4940

For Immediate Release
August 3, 2006

DOE Continues Path Forward on Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

Department Announces $20 Million for GNEP Siting Studies and Seeks Further Coordination with Industry

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced $20 million to conduct detailed siting studies for public or commercial entities interested in hosting DOE's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) facilities. Entities could qualify to receive up to $5 million per site. DOE also announced that it is seeking expressions of interest to obtain input from U.S. and international nuclear industry on the feasibility of accelerating development and deployment of advanced recycling technologies by proceeding with commercial scale demonstration facilities, specifically a Consolidated Fuel Treatment Facility and an Advanced Burner Reactor.

"The siting studies and expressions of interest enable public and commercial entities to provide useful input to the Department's decision-making process for siting and building GNEP facilities in the U.S.," DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon said. "These are important steps forward for the GNEP initiative."

GNEP, launched earlier this year as part of the President's Advanced Energy Initiative, aims to expand the use of nuclear energy to address the growing demand for energy. GNEP proposes private-public-international partnerships to develop advanced technologies to recycle used nuclear fuel, reduce wastes, and avoid misuse of nuclear materials.

Based on international and private sector response to GNEP, the Energy Department believes there are advanced technologies available to recycle used nuclear fuel that may be ready for deployment in conjunction with those currently under development by DOE. In light of this information, DOE is investigating the feasibility of accelerating development and deployment of advanced recycling technologies by proceeding with commercial demonstrations of the technologies.

The Department is considering a two-track approach to demonstrate technologies under GNEP. The first track involves deployment of commercial scale facilities for which advanced technologies are available now or in the near future. The second track would focus on further research and development on transmutation fuels (containing plutonium and minor actinides) technologies.

Under the first track, DOE is currently considering two commercial scale facilities: a Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center, capable of separating used fuel into its usable and waste components; and an Advanced Burner Reactor which would convert transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes while producing electricity.

Under the second track, an Advanced Fuel Cycle Facility announced earlier this year to support development of technologies to separate and fabricate the transmutation fuels for the Advanced Burner Reactor would be designed and directed through DOE's national laboratories and therefore, is not part of the siting studies or the industry-requested expressions of interest.

Congress allocated $20 million in FY 2006 to DOE for siting studies of integrated recycling facilities, with a maximum of $5 million available per site. To be eligible for funding for siting studies, the proposed site must meet minimum criteria related to size, hydrology, electricity capacity, population density, zoning, water availability, road access, and seismic stability.

Preference for award of funds for the siting studies may be given to sites where the applicant has demonstrated community and state support for the use of the site for GNEP facilities. Preference may also be given if the proposed site has the potential for supporting both facilities.

Applications for financial assistance grants must be received by September 7, 2006. DOE anticipates announcing applications it will fund by the end of October 2006. Winning applicants will have 90 days to complete the site studies and submit required information to DOE.

Information generated from the detailed siting studies may be used in an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from each proposed GNEP facility. At the conclusion of the EIS, DOE will make decisions about whether to move forward with the facilities, and if so, where to locate them. Both the Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center and the Advanced Burner Reactor could be located together.

Industry-submitted expressions of interest on the recycling technologies are due to the Energy Department by September 8, 2006. The Department believes that industry's input is valuable in considering the configuration of GNEP's closed fuel cycle. Information gained from the expressions of interest will be used to create Requests for Proposals for the proposed Consolidated Fuel Treatment Facility and the Advanced Burner Reactor.

A briefing to describe DOE's baseline plan and answer expression of interest-related questions will be held August 14, 2006, from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. DOE requests that interested parties who wish to attend the briefing send an email to GNEP_EOI_RSVP@nuclear.energy.gov.

The Financial Assistance Funding Opportunity Announcement for the siting studies and the Expressions of Interest may be found at: http://gnep.gov/. The specific location for the briefing on the request for expressions of interest also will be announced on the GNEP website, http://gnep.gov/. The Financial Assistance Funding Opportunity Announcement is also available at http://www.grants.gov/. The request for expressions of interest issued today will be published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2006.

Additional information on DOE's nuclear energy programs may be found at: http://www.nuclear.gov/.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Siting Studies

The synopsis for this grant opportunity is detailed below, following this paragraph. This synopsis *has been modified* and is not considered current. Please click on the Synopsis link above to display the current synopsis.

If you would like to receive notifications of changes to the grant opportunity click send me change notification emails. The only thing you need to provide for this service is your email address. No other information is requested.

Changed sections from the previous version of the synopsis are highlighted with a light grey background.

Any inconsistency between the original printed document and the disk or electronic document shall be resolved by giving precedence to the printed document.

Document Type:	Grants Notice
Funding Opportunity Number:	DE-PS07-06ID14760
Opportunity Category:	Discretionary
Posted Date:	Aug 03, 2006
Creation Date:	Aug 03, 2006
Current Closing Date for Applications:	Sep 07, 2006
Archive Date:	Dec 03, 2006
Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Category of Funding Activity:	Energy
Category Explanation:	
Expected Number of Awards:	
Estimated Total Program Funding:	
Award Ceiling:	$5,000,000
Award Floor:	$0
CFDA Number:	81.121 -- Nuclear

Energy Research, Development and Demonstration

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Eligible Applicants

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility:

All types of applicants are eligible to apply, except other Federal agencies, Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) Contractors, and nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995. Other eligibility requirements are provided in Part III, Section C, of this Financial Opportunity Announcement.

Agency Name

Idaho Field Office

Description

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID), is seeking applications from eligible entities to perform detailed siting studies. These studies will describe prospective locations to host one or both anticipated Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) facilities. Information obtained from these studies, along with other relevant information, will be used to support the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will evaluate reasonable siting alternatives for the anticipated GNEP facilities. Selection of an application for award does not guarantee that the site will be evaluated in detail in the EIS, only that it will be considered for further evaluation. In addition, there may be other sites considered besides those for which applications are being submitted under this announcement. In the EIS, DOE intends to evaluate certain DOE sites as potential locations for the anticipated GNEP facilities. Selection for award under this announcement in no way guarantees that a proposed site will host a GNEP facility.

Link to Full Announcement

Click here to view the Opportunity

If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

using this
link
iips_helpdesk@e-center.doe.gov
Wade Hillebrant
hillebtw@id.doe.gov
If you have any problems linking to the funding opportunity please contact the IIPS HelpDesk

Latest Revision

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1221e–3; 20 U.S.C. 6301 *et. seq.*

Dated: August 1, 2006.

Margaret Spellings,

Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. E6–12780 Filed 8–4–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of an upcoming open meeting of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Advisory Committee. The notice also describes the functions of the Committee. Notice of this meeting is required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

DATES: Monday, August 21, 2006, and Tuesday, August 22, 2006.

Time: August 21, 2006: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; August 22, 2006: 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The Committee will meet at the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Barnard Auditorium, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Davis, Executive Director, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 1E110, Washington, DC 20202–3510; telephone: (202) 205–4169, or e-mail at *OSDFS@ed.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established to provide advice to the Secretary on Federal, State and local programs designated to create safe and drug-free schools, and on issues related to crisis planning. The focus for this meeting is the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities State Grants Programs, a formula grant program. The agenda will include panel presentations by invited speakers offering an overview of the program and looking at opportunities to strengthen and improve it in order to ensure that schools and communities are implementing the most effective programs and interventions, and are prepared to meet current and future needs of students. Further, the Committee will address strategies for accomplishing their mission as stated in the committee charter.

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (*e.g.,* interpreting services, assistive listening devices, or materials in alternative format) should notify Catherine Davis at *OSDFSC@ed.gov* or 202–205–4169 no later than August 7, 2006. We will attempt to meet requests for accommodations after this date but cannot guarantee their availability. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Individuals interested in attending the meeting must register in advance because limited space is available at the meeting site. Please notify Catherine Davis at *OSDFSC@ed.gov* or 202–205–4169 of your intention to attend the meeting.

Opportunities for public comment are available on August 22 from 8:40–9:15 a.m. on a first come, first served basis. Comments presented at the meeting must be limited to 5 minutes in length. Written comments that accompany oral remarks are optional. Five copies are recommended and should be submitted to the committee Chairman.

Request for Written Comments: We invite the public to submit written comments relevant to the focus of the Advisory Committee. We would like to receive written comments from members of the public no later than April 30, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Submit all comments to the Advisory Committee using one of the following methods: 1. Internet. We encourage the public to submit comments through the Internet to the following address: *OSDFSC@ed.gov*. 2. Mail. The public may also submit your comments via mail to Catherine Davis, Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 1E110, Washington, DC 20202. Due to delays in mail delivery caused by heightened security, please allow adequate time for the mail to be received.

Records are kept of all Committee proceedings and are available for public inspection at the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 1E110, Washington, DC 20202, from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Ray Simon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 06–6710 Filed 8–4–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Request for Expressions of Interest in an Advanced Burner Reactor To Support the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

AGENCY: Office of Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of request for expressions of interest.

SUMMARY: Based upon feedback since the President of the United States announced the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) in February 2006, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from domestic and international industry in building an Advanced Burner Reactor (ABR). An ABR in the United States would establish a fast reactor capability to be used to transmute fuel and consume transuranic elements within the fuel, generate electricity, and support implementation of GNEP. DOE is also seeking to define the interest of industry to build upon their proven capabilities and participate in demonstrating spent nuclear fuel (SNF) recycling technologies that meet GNEP goals. This EOI will help inform DOE's GNEP Program as to those issues that industry and potential host sites consider important to the construction of sustainable, commercial-scale SNF recycling technologies that meet GNEP objectives. The information gained from this EOI will be used to create Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the proposed ABR.

DATES: Interested parties wishing to submit an EOI should do so in writing by September 8, 2006, to ensure their input is considered. A briefing for respondents to learn about DOE's baseline plan and answer EOI-related questions will be held on August 14, 2006, 8 am–12 pm, in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The specific meeting location will be announced on the GNEP Web site, *http://www.gnep.energy.gov*. Please indicate your interest in attending the briefing by sending an e-mail indicating your intent to attend to *GNEP_EOI_RSVP@nuclear.energy.gov*. It is recognized that GNEP is moving forward on an aggressive schedule that will task all of the responders' abilities to provide quality information in a short period of time. DOE believes that GNEP can help to revitalize the U.S. nuclear industry and improve its global competitive position. Early participation by industry in this effort will greatly maximize GNEP's success.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By postal mail, Mr. John F. Gross, Mail

Stop: NE–2.4/Germantown, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20585–0119; by phone on 301–903–3918; by e-mail at *GNEP_EOI_RSVP@nuclear.energy.gov*.

ADDRESSES: Please send all hardcopy Expressions of Interest to Mr. John F. Gross, Mail Stop: NE–2.4/Germantown, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119. Electronic versions of the Expressions of Interest may be submitted in pdf (portable document format) format by e-mail to *GNEP_EOI_RSVP@nuclear.energy.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, DOE has launched the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). The broad goals of GNEP are described in the Report to Congress—Spent Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program Plan issued May 2006, *http://www.gnep.energy.gov/pdfs/snfRecyclingProgframPanMay2006.pdf.*

A major element of GNEP is the development and deployment of advanced nuclear fuel recycling technologies. In general, advanced recycling technologies focus on three operations:

(1) Separate commercial LWR SNF into its usable and waste components.

Spent nuclear fuel contains uranium, transuranics (plutonium and other long-lived radioactive elements), and fission products. The fission products are waste and make up less than five percent of the used fuel. Buildup of fission products within the fuel inhibits nuclear fission reactions so the spent fuel must be replaced with fresh fuel for continued operation of a nuclear reactor. The transuranics and uranium in SNF would be separated from the fission products and then fabricated into new fuel for a fast reactor to consume the transuranics and uranium while simultaneously recovering their energy content. The SNF recycling program would use advanced separation processes (*e.g.,* Uranium Extraction Plus or other comparable processes).

(2) Fabricate and recycle fast reactor fuel containing transuranic elements.

Fabricating, testing, and qualifying fast reactor fuel containing transuranic and actinide elements (*i.e.,* transmutation fuel), obtained from recycled spent fast reactor fuel, is required to provide fresh fuel for the reactor. After the qualification of transmutation fuel, the GNEP facilities would demonstrate recycle of fast reactor transmutation fuel and eventually could include the construction of a separate transmutation fuel separations and fabrication facility.

(3) Convert transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes while producing electricity.

Fast reactors produce high-energy neutrons that can fission long-lived transuranics, thus converting the transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes. As the transuranics are consumed, significant energy is released that can be used to produce electricity from material that would otherwise be considered waste and potentially require disposal in a geologic repository.

The Department initially announced an approach that would demonstrate technologies from the laboratory at engineering scale, prior to a second phase of commercialization. This approach is described in the Report to Congress—Spent Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program Plan issued May 2006, *http://www.gnep.energy.gov/pdfs/snfRecyclingProgframPanMay2006.pdf.*

Following the announcement of the GNEP Program by the President, a number of foreign governments and private companies expressed interest in cooperating in the near-term with the Department in the development and deployment of advanced recycling technologies. Some of these entities indicated they are pursuing similar technologies and, in some cases, these technologies may be ready for deployment prior to those currently under development by the Department. In light of this information, DOE seeks to determine the feasibility of accelerating the development and deployment of advanced recycling technologies that would enable commercial scale demonstrations that meet GNEP objectives. These demonstrations would utilize industry expertise to build the well-understood stages of advanced technology for the separation of LWR SNF, and the construction and operation of a fast reactor, while designing in the modules for incorporating group separation of actinides, transmutation fuel production, burning, and recycling operations.

This approach would involve two simultaneous tracks: (1) Deployment of commercial scale facilities for which advanced technologies are available now or in the near future and (2) further research and development on transmutation fuels technologies. This two-track approach could result in two commercial scale facilities, one of which is the subject of this EOI. These facilities are:

- Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center (CFTC)—a facility to separate the usable uranium and transuranics from spent light-water reactor fuel for use in fabricating fast reactor fuel. During the second track the CFTC would be augmented or a separate transmutation fuel separations and fabrication facility would be constructed to separate and fabricate fast reactor transmutation fuel.
- Advanced Burner Reactor (ABR; subject of this EOI)—fast reactor to use transmutation fuel and consume transuranic elements within the fuel and generate electricity. The ABR is expected to be qualified with conventional fast reactor fuel. Subsequently, the ABR would be used to demonstrate the feasibility of recycling fast reactor transmutation fuel.

A third facility, the Advanced Fuel Cycle Facility (AFCF), will be designed and directed through DOE's national laboratories and will support development of the technologies required to separate and fabricate fast reactor transmutation fuel. The AFCF is not currently a subject of a Request for Expressions of Interest.

ABR Characteristics

DOE prefers to constrain as little as possible this EOI on the fuel cycle pathway to meet GNEP goals. Industry's input is valuable in considering the ultimate technical and pragmatic configuration of GNEP's closed fuel cycle. Some rough parameters for considering the ultimate characteristics of an ABR for the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program are set out below. They simply illustrate the type of information DOE is requesting in this EOI and respondents should not interpret the following information as a final decision from DOE on the ABR's characteristics or the overall demonstration program. The responses to this EOI may significantly influence subsequent RFPs.

Desired ABR General Characteristics

The ABR is essential to perform key functions in support of GNEP technology development objectives, including:

- Providing a fast neutron reactor necessary to consume the transuranic and actinide elements contained in transmutation fuel, i.e., fuel that is fabricated from uranium, plutonium, and other transuranics found in light water reactor (LWR) spent fuel.
- Generating and providing electricity to a power grid and contribute to commercial sustainability. Thus, the ABR would consume transuranic elements in fuel made possible by other key elements of the technology program: separation of LWR and fast reactor SNF into their usable components and the

fabrication of transmutation fuel from those components.

• Consuming transuranic elements separated from LWR SNF. See the Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center (CFTC) EOI for a discussion of that element.

• Ensuring that facility designs meet U.S. standards for safeguards and security.

Developing this complete system to support GNEP remains the central objective, drawing upon the expertise and capabilities of industry and international partners to achieve it. Further,

The ABR shall safely and reliably perform its power generation and transmutation functions. The ABR shall be capable of being licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and operated in accordance with NRC regulations. The ABR shall incorporate design features and technologies to promote reliable system performance during normal operations and in response to postulated accident scenarios.

• The ABR shall be designed such that the future cost of electrical power generation using ABRs can be shown to be economical, with a goal of being competitive with Advanced Light Water Reactors, reasonably accounting for any externalities.

• ABRs shall be capable of generating power through the net destruction of transuranic material.

• The strategy for potential development of ABRs shall be made to be as affordable as possible without introducing undue risk into the development effort so as to place in serious jeopardy the potential to successfully achieve the ABR mission.

• To support timely implementation supportive of GNEP goals, the ABR system shall be capable of commercial deployment as early as possible.

Example Technical Characteristics of the ABR

• *Reactor neutron energy spectrum:* Fast.

• *Reactor technology:* Pool-type sodium cooled.

• *Power conversion technology:* Steam-Rankine or Super-critical CO_2 Brayton Cycle.

• *Reactor fuel type:* Oxide or metal based.

• *Reactor unit thermal power:* 500 MWt–2000 MWt.

• *Electrical power from reactor unit:* 200 MWe–800 MWe, generated electricity can be provided to a commercial power grid.

• For modular approach, technology for reactor unit should be scalable to higher power levels up to at least 1 GWe.

• The ABR would have the capability of being started on conventional fast reactor driver fuel, transitioned to full core operation on transmutation fuel, and provide a capability for transmuting minor actinide targets prior to this transition.

• Process storage capacity: Sufficient process storage capacity should be included to support full-scale plant operations, including storage of spent fuel prior to recycling.

Geographic

• The reactor may be collocated with the SNF processing and fuel fabrication operations. This is not a requirement but rather a possibility.

Regulatory

• Must comply with all environmental protection laws and regulations.

• Must be capable of being licensed under NRC regulations applicable to demonstration operations on privately owned land regardless of where the demonstration is sited.

Content of EOI

The following items identify the information that DOE is requesting in this EOI. All respondents are encouraged to provide information beyond that requested if it is believed to be beneficial to their responses.

1. Level of Interest and Proposed Scope of Interest

Please describe how you believe DOE could accelerate successful demonstration of SNF integrated recycling technologies to advance the goals of GNEP. Describe the approach that you believe should be taken to accomplish this goal, including its benefits and risks, and describe your level of interest or potential participation. Also, provide a description of what you believe your approach does to advance the broad goals of GNEP (as described, for example, in the Background section). In particular, for the ABR, DOE is interested in:

a. What reactor unit size (MWt) would be proposed by industry to achieve the ABR mission, and what reactor size would be proposed for the demonstration program (*e.g.*, sub-scale, full-size module)?

b. What set of reactor system technologies (*e.g.*, basic type of fuel, reactor and power conversion technologies) is proposed to achieve the ABR mission?

c. What would the general fuel qualification approach and schedule be for initial driver fuel and transmutation fuel? Identify the basic in-reactor tests and facilities that would be used to support fuel qualification.

d. In addition to advanced reactor systems, what research and development (R&D) on near-term water-cooled reactor approaches could be pursued to support transmutation of transuranics consistent with the goals of GNEP?

2. Proposed Roles of Parties Involved

Please identify who you believe the parties to such a venture should include and the role of each party. Parties could include U.S. Government and foreign government agencies, state and local government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, domestic and foreign commercial firms (*e.g.*, Architect & Engineering (A&E) firms, component manufacturers, electric utility companies, etc.) or any other entity you may identify that fits into your proposed solution. Your statement should clearly identify the role each party would play in ensuring the success of your proposition, whether direct or indirect. Examples of roles include, but are not limited to, providing financing, guaranteeing financing, A&E services, construction, facility operations, program or project management, regulatory compliance support, and hardware vendor. Provide an assessment of the benefit to the U.S. Government and GNEP of your proposed parties and their roles. Also, provide a description of the benefits that would accrue to each of the parties in this venture. Benefits could include, but are not limited to, financial gain, intellectual property, market position, facilities, education, and advancing policy goals.

3. Resources

For each entity you have identified in Item 2 above, provide specifics describing the resources each party could provide to ensure the program's success. These resources may include, but are not limited to, financial, existing or new facilities, personnel (include a description of the type of personnel, *e.g.*, technical, management, regulatory, financial, etc.), intellectual property, and leased equipment.

4. Proposed Contractual Vehicle

Please provide a description of the contractual vehicle(s) you feel should be employed in furtherance of your approach. Examples may include, but are not limited to, contracts, financial assistance, Cooperative Research and

Development Agreements, loan guarantees, other transactional arrangements. Please limit your suggestions to those contractual authorities already granted to DOE or other government agencies you identify.

5. Areas of Technology Development Required for Potential Commercialization

Please identify what technical areas associated with your approach would benefit from additional research, development or demonstration (RD&D) activities, how and to what extent this RD&D would mitigate technical or technology risk, estimated timeframes to accomplish this RD&D, parties performing the activities, and other technical issues that need to be addressed.

6. Government Furnished Data/ Technology/Equipment

Describe what, if any, government furnished data, technology, or equipment you would require to accomplish your defined approach. State whether you have any existing rights or license for the use of the data or technology, and if not, how you would pursue acquiring such rights.

Confidentiality

Confidential or business sensitive information contained in the submission must be identified and marked accordingly. DOE will protect this information from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law.

This EOI is not a formal solicitation requesting proposals and does not represent a commitment by the Government to award a contract. The Government does not intend to formally respond to information submitted in response to this EOI. The Government is not responsible for costs incurred to submit a response to this EOI, conducting other activities associated with pre-solicitation planning, or submitting a proposal in response to a solicitation, if issued.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 31, 2006.

Dennis R. Spurgeon,

Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy.

[FR Doc. E6–12747 Filed 8–4–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Request for Expressions of Interest in a Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center To Support the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

AGENCY: Office of Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of request for expressions of interest.

SUMMARY: Based upon feedback since the President of the United States announced the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) in February 2006, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from domestic and international industry in building spent nuclear fuel recycling and transmutation fuel fabrication capabilities. DOE contemplates locating these capabilities together in a Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center (CFTC) and seeks expressions of interest from potential domestic host sites. DOE is also seeking to define the interest of industry to build upon their proven capabilities and participate in demonstrating spent nuclear fuel (SNF) recycling technologies that meet GNEP goals. This EOI will help inform DOE's GNEP Program as to those issues that industry and potential host sites consider important to the ultimate construction of sustainable, commercial-scale SNF recycling technologies that meet GNEP objectives. The information gained from this EOI will be used to create Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the proposed CFTC.

DATES: Interested parties wishing to submit an EOI should do so in writing by September 8, 2006, to ensure their input is considered. A briefing for respondents to learn about DOE's baseline plan and answer EOI-related questions will be held on August 14, 2006, 8 a.m.–12 p.m., in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The specific meeting location will be announced on the GNEP Web site, *http://www.gnep.energy.gov.* Please indicate your interest in attending the briefing by sending an e-mail indicating your intent to attend to *GNEP_EOI_RSVP@nuclear.energy.gov.* It is recognized that GNEP is moving forward on an aggressive schedule that will task all of the responders' abilities to provide quality information in a short period of time. DOE believes that GNEP can help to revitalize the U.S. nuclear industry and improve its global competitive position. Early participation by industry in this effort will greatly maximize GNEP's success.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By postal mail, Mr. John F. Gross, Mail Stop: NE–2.4/Germantown, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119; by phone on 301–903–3918; by e-mail at *GNEP_EOI_RSVP@nuclear.energy.gov.*

ADDRESSES: Please send all hardcopy Expressions of Interest to Mr. John F. Gross, Mail Stop: NE–2.4/Germantown, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119. Electronic versions of the Expressions of Interest may be submitted in pdf (portable document format) format by e-mail to *GNEP_EOI_RSVP@nuclear.energy.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, DOE has launched the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). The broad goals of GNEP are described in the Report to Congress—Spent Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program Plan issued May 2006, *http://www.gnep.energy.gov/pdfs/snfRecyclingProgframPanMay2006.pdf.*

A major element of GNEP is the development and deployment of advanced nuclear fuel recycling technologies. In general, advanced recycling technologies focus on three operations:

(1) Separate commercial LWR SNF into its usable and waste components.

Spent nuclear fuel contains uranium, transuranics (plutonium and other long-lived radioactive elements), and fission products. The fission products are waste and make up less than five percent of the used fuel. Buildup of fission products within the fuel inhibits nuclear fission reactions so the spent fuel must be replaced with fresh fuel for continued operation of a nuclear reactor. The transuranics and uranium in SNF would be separated from the fission products and then fabricated into new fuel for a fast reactor to consume the transuranics and uranium while simultaneously recovering their energy content. The SNF recycling program would use advanced separation processes (e.g., Uranium Extraction Plus or other comparable processes).

(2) Fabricate and recycle fast reactor fuel containing transuranic elements.

Fabricating, testing, and qualifying fast reactor fuel containing transuranic and actinide elements (i.e., transmutation fuel), obtained from recycled spent fast reactor fuel, is required to provide fresh fuel for the reactor. After the qualification of transmutation fuel, the GNEP facilities would demonstrate recycle of fast

reactor transmutation fuel and eventually could include the construction of a separate transmutation fuel separations and fabrication facility.

(3) Convert transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes while producing electricity.

Fast reactors produce high-energy neutrons that can fission long-lived transuranics, thus converting the transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes. As the transuranics are consumed, significant energy is released that can be used to produce electricity from material that would otherwise be considered waste and potentially require disposal in a geologic repository.

The Department initially announced an approach that would demonstrate technologies from the laboratory at engineering scale, prior to a second phase of commercialization. This initial approach is described in the Report to Congress—Spent Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program Plan issued May 2006, *http://www.gnep.energy.gov/pdfs/snfRecyclingProgframPanMay2006.pdf.*

Following the announcement of the GNEP Program by the President, a number of foreign governments and private companies expressed interest in cooperating in the near-term with the Department in the development and deployment of advanced recycling technologies. Some of these entities indicated they are pursuing similar technologies and, in some cases, these technologies may be ready for deployment prior to those currently under development by the Department. In light of this information, DOE seeks to determine the feasibility of accelerating the development and deployment of advanced recycling technologies that would enable commercial scale demonstrations that meet GNEP objectives. These demonstrations would utilize industry expertise to build the well-understood stages of advanced technology for the separation of LWR SNF, and the construction and operation of a fast reactor, while designing in the modules for incorporating group separation of actinides, transmutation fuel production, burning, and recycling operations.

This approach would involve two simultaneous tracks: (1) Deployment of commercial scale facilities for which advanced technologies are available now or in the near future and (2) further research and development on transmutation fuels technologies. This two-track approach could result in two commercial scale facilities, one of which is the subject of this EOI. These facilities are:

- Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center (CFTC; subject of this EOI)—a facility to separate the usable uranium and transuranics from spent light-water reactor fuel for use in fabricating fast reactor fuel. During the second track the CFTC would be augmented or a separate transmutation fuel separations and fabrication facility would be constructed to separate and fabricate fast reactor transmutation fuel.
- Advanced Burner Reactor (ABR)—fast reactor to use transmutation fuel and consume transuranic elements within the fuel and generate electricity. The ABR is expected to be qualified with conventional fast reactor fuel. Subsequently, the ABR would be used to demonstrate the feasibility of recycling fast reactor transmutation fuel.

A third facility, the Advanced Fuel Cycle Facility (AFCF), will be designed and directed through DOE's national laboratories and will support development of the technologies required to separate and fabricate fast reactor transmutation fuel. The AFCF is not currently a subject of a Request for Expressions of Interest.

CFTC Characteristics

DOE prefers to constrain as little as possible this EOI on the fuel cycle pathway to meet GNEP goals. Industry's input is valuable in considering the ultimate technical and pragmatic configuration of GNEP's closed fuel cycle. Some rough parameters for considering the ultimate characteristics of a CFTC facility for the GNEP Technology Demonstration Program are set out below. They simply illustrate the type of information DOE is requesting in this EOI and respondents should not interpret the following information as a final decision from DOE on the CFTC's characteristics or the overall demonstration program. The responses to this EOI may significantly influence subsequent RFPs.

Desired CFTC General Characteristics

The complete CFTC would be designed to perform several key functions in support of GNEP technology development objectives, including:

- Separating reusable uranium and transuranics from spent light water reactor (LWR) fuel for use in fabricating fast reactor driver fuel. (An additional facility designed and directed through a DOE national laboratory will support development of the technologies required to separate and fabricate fast reactor transmutation fuel, i.e., fuel that is fabricated from uranium, plutonium, and other transuranics found in LWR spent fuel.)
- Demonstrating the separation of LWR and fast reactor SNF into their usable components and the fabrication of transmutation fuel from those components.
- Consuming transuranic elements in a fast reactor. See the Advanced Burner Reactor (ABR) EOI for a discussion of that element.
- Ensuring that facility designs meet U.S. standards for safeguards and security.

Developing this complete system to support GNEP remains the central objective, drawing upon the expertise and capabilities of industry and international partners to achieve it. Further,

- The CFTC shall safely and reliably perform its LWR spent fuel process storage and separations functions as well as providing safe and reliable ABR driver fuel fabrication capabilities. The CFTC shall be capable of being licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and operated in accordance with NRC regulations. The CFTC shall incorporate design features and technologies to promote reliable system performance during normal operations and in response to postulated accident scenarios.
- The CFTC shall demonstrate improved spent fuel separations technologies. This shall be accomplished in a process whose end products are not pure plutonium or other weapons-grade fissile material. The spent fuel separations technology will be further enhanced by advanced safeguards and security monitoring technology.
- The CFTC will produce, through spent fuel separations, high-purity uranium for reuse as reactor fuel or disposal as low-level waste, transuranic fuel feed material for transmutation in a fast reactor, and fission products with reduced heat generation and radiotoxicity for long-term geologic disposal.
- The CFTC shall be designed such that the future cost of spent fuel receipt, separations process, product management, and fuel fabrication capabilities can be shown as an efficient component of an economical fuel cycle. It is desirable that the material remain throughout in as low a category as possible for attractiveness for use in a nuclear weapon and for safeguarding purposes.
- The CFTC shall fabricate the driver fuel (i.e., fuel for the initial startup core and subsequent refueling of the core in advance of the availability of transmutation fuel) for the ABR to initially generate power.

• CFTC technologies shall be capable of commercial deployment.

Example of Technical Characteristics of the CFTC

• Process storage capacity: Sufficient storage capacity should be included to support full-scale plant operation, including storage of spent fuel prior to separations as well as storage of the resulting separated material.

• Spent fuel separations throughput: Able to be increased to approximately 2,000 to 3,000 metric tons per year to support commercial operation.

• Separations technology: UREX+1a where major products include high-purity uranium, cesium and strontium, transuranics, spent fuel cladding hulls, and fission products. Alternative separation technologies with different product streams (e.g., different actinide separation efficiencies or distributions) may be proposed.

• Waste disposition strategies: Waste minimization is a priority and should focus on reducing radiotoxicity, half-life, heat generation, and minimize criticality concerns.

• Fast reactor driver fuel type: Oxide or metal based (depends on fuel type selected in related GNEP ABR EOI).

Geographic

• The SNF processing and fuel fabrication operations may be collocated with ABR.

• Existing DOE or commercial facilities or new facilities may be addressed in the response.

Regulatory

• Must comply with all environmental protection laws and regulations.

• Must be capable of being licensed under NRC regulations applicable to demonstration operations on privately owned land regardless of where the demonstration is sited.

Content of EOI

The following items identify the information that DOE is requesting in this EOI. All respondents are encouraged to provide information beyond that requested if it is believed to be beneficial to their responses.

1. Level of Interest and Proposed Scope of Interest

Please describe how you believe DOE could accelerate successful demonstration of SNF integrated recycling technologies to advance the goals of GNEP. Describe the approach that you believe should be taken to accomplish this goal, including its benefits and risks, and describe your level of interest or potential participation. Also, provide a description of what you believe your approach does to advance the broad goals of GNEP (as described, for example, in the Background section). In particular, for the CFTC, DOE is interested in:

a. What LWR spent fuel process storage capabilities, separations technology and throughput (initial and final), and fast sodium reactor driver fuel fabrication system characteristics would be proposed to achieve the CFTC mission?

b. What set of separations process technologies are sufficiently mature to implement immediately and what proposed technologies or components require additional developmental work (e.g., advanced centrifugal contactors, advanced monitoring instrumentation) to achieve the CFTC mission?

c. What are the key elements of the proposal's product and waste management strategies? Are there near-term strategies using existing technology as well as long-term strategies for improved waste minimization and product form as well as storage and disposition technologies envisioned? If so, specify the key elements of future improvements, their relative costs and their benefits.

d. In addition to advanced separation processes, what technology development could be pursued to support spent fuel recycling consistent with the goals of GNEP?

2. Proposed Roles of Parties Involved

Please identify who you believe the parties to such a venture should include and the role of each party. Parties could include U.S. Government and foreign government agencies, state and local government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, domestic and foreign commercial firms (e.g., Architect & Engineering (A&E) firms, component manufacturers, electric utility companies, etc.) or any other entity you may identify that fits into your proposed solution. Your statement should clearly identify the role each party would play in ensuring the success of your proposition, whether direct or indirect. Examples of roles include, but are not limited to, providing financing, guaranteeing financing, A&E services, construction, facility operations, program or project management, regulatory compliance support, and hardware vendor. Provide an assessment of the benefit to the U.S. Government and GNEP of your proposed parties and their roles. Also, provide a description of the benefits that would accrue to each of the parties in this venture. Benefits could include, but are not limited to, financial gain, intellectual property, market position, facilities, education, and advancing policy goals.

3. Resources

For each entity you have identified in Item 2 above, provide specifics describing the resources each party could provide to ensure the program's success. These resources may include, but are not limited to, financial, existing or new facilities, personnel (include a description of the type of personnel, e.g., technical, management, regulatory, financial, etc.), intellectual property, and leased equipment.

4. Proposed Contractual Vehicle

Please provide a description of the contractual vehicle(s) you feel should be employed in furtherance of your approach. Examples may include, but are not limited to, contracts, financial assistance, Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, loan guarantees, other transactional arrangements. Please limit your suggestions to those contractual authorities already granted to DOE or other government agencies you identify.

5. Areas of Technology Development Required for Potential Commercialization

Please identify what technical areas associated with your approach would benefit from additional research, development or demonstration activities, how and to what extent this research and development (R&D) would mitigate technical or technology risk, estimated timeframes to accomplish this R&D, parties performing the activities, and other technical issues that need to be addressed.

6. Government Furnished Data/ Technology/Equipment

Describe what, if any, government furnished data, technology, or equipment you would require to accomplish your defined approach. State whether you have any existing rights or license for the use of the data or technology, and if not, how you would pursue acquiring such rights.

Confidentiality

Confidential or business sensitive information contained in the submission must be identified and marked accordingly. DOE will protect this information from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law.

This EOI is not a formal solicitation requesting proposals and does not represent a commitment by the

Government to award a contract. The Government does not intend to formally respond to information submitted in response to this EOI. The Government is not responsible for costs incurred to submit a response to this EOI, conducting other activities associated with pre-solicitation planning, or submitting a proposal in response to a solicitation, if issued.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 31, 2006.

Dennis R. Spurgeon,

Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy.

[FR Doc. E6–12646 Filed 8–4–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Biological and Environmental Research (BER); Federal Interagency Steering Committee on Multimedia Environmental Modeling

AGENCY: Office of Science; Biological and Environmental Research (BER), Department of Energy, (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The annual public meeting of the Federal Interagency Steering Committee on Multimedia Environmental Modeling (ISCMEM) will convene to discuss new operational initiatives for FY 2007 as a result of the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the participating agencies.

DATES: August 24, 2006. Time: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The American Geophysical Union (AGU) headquarters building, 2000 Florida Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquiries and notice of intent to attend the meeting may be faxed or E-mailed to: Dr. Robert T. Anderson, ISCMEM Chair, Office of Biological and Environmental Research SC–23.4 / Germantown Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–1290. Tel: 301–903–5549. Fax: 301–903–4154. *Todd.Anderson@science.doe.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Nine Federal agencies have been cooperating under a MOU on the research and development of multimedia environmental models for the last 5 years. The MOU establishes a framework for facilitating cooperation and coordination among the following agencies (the specific research organization within the agency is in parenthesis): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Engineer Research and Development Center): U.S. Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Research Service); U.S. Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service); U.S. Department of Energy (Office of Biological and Environmental Research); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmosphere Administration; and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research); U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. These agencies are cooperating and coordinating in the research and development (R&D) of multimedia environmental models, software and related databases, including development, enhancements, applications and assessments of site specific, generic, and process-oriented multimedia environmental models as they pertain to human and environmental health risk assessment. Multimedia model development and simulation supports interagency interests in risk assessment, uncertainty analyses, water supply issues and contaminant transport. This MOU was just renewed by member agencies ensuring another 5 years of continuing collaboration and cooperation among the participating agencies in these areas.

Purpose of the Public Meeting: The annual public meeting provides an opportunity for the scientific community, other Federal and State agencies, and the public to be briefed on ISCMEM activities and their initiatives for the upcoming year, and to discuss technological advancements in multimedia environmental modeling.

Proposed Agenda: The ISCMEM Chair will open the meeting with a brief overview of the goals of the MOU, the activities of ISCMEM and changes in organizational operations as a result of the revised and renewed ISCMEM MOU. This introduction will be followed by series of invited presentations throughout the morning session focusing on topics of mutual interest to ISCMEM participants. The afternoon session will be largely devoted to discussing future goals and projects that will set the stage for collaborative interactions among ISCMEM participating agencies for the next 5 years. A detailed agenda with presentation titles and speakers will be posted on the MOU public Web site: *http://www.ISCMEM.org.*

Meeting Access: The headquarters of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) is located at 2000 Florida Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20009. The most convenient transportation to the meeting venue is via Metro. Please take Metro to the Dupont Circle Metro stop on the Red Line. Take the ''Q'' Street exit of the Dupont Circle station. Upon exiting the Metro station proceed North on Connecticut Avenue for about 3 blocks. Turn right onto Florida Avenue for about one-half block. AGU building is on the right. Please inform the security personnel upon entering the building that you are attending the public meeting on multimedia environmental modeling. The meeting room is on the ground floor to your left as you enter the building.

Robert T. Anderson,

Chair, Federal Interagency Steering Committee on Multimedia Environmental Modeling.

[FR Doc. E6–12748 Filed 8–4–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Continuation of Forms EIA–182, ''Domestic Crude Oil First Purchase Report,'' and EIA–856, ''Monthly Foreign Crude Oil Acquisition Report''

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Continuation of Forms EIA–182, ''Domestic Crude Oil First Purchase Report,'' and EIA–856, ''Monthly Foreign Crude Oil Acquisition Report.''

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) will continue the monthly collection of data on the Forms EIA–182, ''Domestic Crude Oil First Purchase Report,'' and EIA–856, ''Monthly Foreign Crude Oil Acquisition Report,'' through the reporting of October 2006 data that is due to EIA by November 30, 2006.

DATES: Data collection on Forms EIA–182 and EIA–856 will continue though November 30, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Inquiries about the continuation of Forms EIA–182 and EIA–856 should be directed to Susan Harris at the Energy Information Administration, EI–42, Forrestal Building, Mail Stop: 2E–050, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, telephone: (202) 586–8384, E-mail address: *susan.harris@eia.doe.gov* or fax number: (202) 586–1076.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Susan Harris at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

II. Current Actions

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact(s):
Craig Stevens, (202) 586-4940

For Immediate Release
November 29, 2006

Department of Energy Selects Recipients of GNEP Siting Grants

Eleven sites to be analyzed for potential nuclear recycling facilities

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that 11 commercial and public consortia have been selected to receive up to $16 million in grants, subject to negotiation, to conduct detailed siting studies for integrated spent fuel recycling facilities under the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) initiative. DOE will award the grants early next year after negotiations are completed with prospective awardees.

"As our economy grows so will the need for reliable, emissions-free energy generation. Nuclear energy can help meet that need and GNEP can do it in a way that maximizes the benefit of nuclear fuel while minimizing the risk of nuclear proliferation," DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon said. "That is why we are pleased that so many communities across the country are interested in hosting the initial facilities necessary to support this exciting project. These selections are an important initial step in proceeding to evaluate and select locations to host GNEP facilities."

Of the 11 sites located throughout the country, six are currently owned and operated by DOE. The study sites and sponsors are:

1.	Atomic City, ID	EnergySolutions, LLC
2.	Barnwell, SC	EnergySolutions, LLC
3.	Hanford Site, WA	Tri-City Industrial Development Council/Columbia Basin Consulting Group
4.	Hobbs, NM	Eddy Lea Energy Alliance
5.	Idaho National Laboratory, ID	Regional Development Alliance, Inc.
6.	Morris, IL	General Electric Company
7.	Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN	Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee

8.	Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, KY	Paducah Uranium Plant Asset Utilization, Inc.
9.	Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, OH	Piketon Initiative for Nuclear Independence, LLC
10.	Roswell, NM	EnergySolutions, LLC
11.	Savannah River National Laboratory, SC	Economic Development Partnership of Aiken and Edgefield Counties

The grantees will perform detailed siting studies related to hosting one or both of the Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center and the Advanced Burner Reactor. The subsequent awards will be for a 90-day period of performance to complete a detailed site characterization study of each sponsored site. Congress provided up to $20 million in FY 2006 for integrated spent fuel recycling facilities siting studies. The remaining funds will be held in reserve to potentially fund supplemental activities if required.

Information generated from the detailed siting studies of non-DOE sites is expected to address a variety of site-related matters, including site and nearby land uses; demographics; aquatic and riparian ecological communities; terrestrial plant and animal habitat; threatened or endangered species; historical, archaeological and cultural resources; geology and seismology; weather and climate; and regulatory and permitting requirements. Information requirements for the DOE sites are more limited due to the availability of previous studies.

The information may also be used in the environmental impact statement (EIS) that will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from each proposed GNEP facility. At the conclusion of the EIS, DOE will make decisions about whether to move forward with the facilities, and if so, where to locate them.

Fourteen applications were originally submitted, and twelve were selected to receive a comprehensive merit review under the criteria listed in the Financial Assistance Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) issued in August 2006. Two of the twelve recently decided to collaborate and team, as they proposed the same site for study.

An advanced nuclear fuel recycling center contains facilities where usable uranium and transuranics are separated from spent light water reactor fuel for use in producing new fuel that can be reused in a power reactor. An advanced recycling reactor is a fast reactor that would demonstrate the ability to reuse and consume materials recovered from spent nuclear fuel, including long-lived elements that would otherwise have to be disposed of in a geologic repository. Both facilities could be located at the same site.

The development and deployment of advanced nuclear fuel recycling facilities is a major element of GNEP, part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative. In general, these technologies focus on separating commercial light water reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) into its usable and waste components, fabricating and recycling fast reactor fuel containing transuranic elements from the usable components of SNF, and converting

those transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes while producing electricity in an advanced recycling reactor.

For more information on GNEP, visit: http://www.gnep.gov/. Additional information on DOE's nuclear energy program may be found on http://www.nuclear.energy.gov/.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Bde, 25th ID(L) to an SBCT and home station it in Hawaii.

The 2nd Bde, 25th ID(L) began its transformation to the 5th SBCT shortly after completion of the 2004 FEIS and ROD. As of November 2006, the Brigade has completed about 60% of the training required to achieve combat efficiency and has received about 70% of its equipment. The Brigade is scheduled to complete its training and equipment fielding in late 2007. The Brigade must be available for deployment to meet joint force and on-going operational requirements in November of 2007.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. & et seq.) and the Army NEPA procedures, Environmental Analysis of Army Action (32 CFR Part 651) require the Army to consider the environmental impacts of their actions and alternatives, and to solicit the views of the public, so they can make an informed final decision regarding how to proceed. In particular, the Court concluded the Army had a duty under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider locations other than Hawaii for the 5th SBCT.

The proposed action would result in the permanent home stationing of the 5th SBCT. Evaluations will include strategic military and National defense and security considerations. Evaluations will include strategy military and National defense and security consideration, to include which locations, if selected, are capable of supporting the National Security Strategy (2006), the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR, 2006), National Military Strategy, and the Army Campaign Plan (ACP). These strategic guidance documents have been incorporated into the Army's decision making process. All of these individual components will be considered in the 5th SBCT stationing SEIS to ensure a range of reasonable alternatives are carried forward which support the National Security Strategy (2006). Based on public scoping and factors discussed above, the Army will refine its range of reasonable alternatives to the extent possible to accommodate both mission requirements and Soldier and family quality of life. In reaching this decision the Army will assess and consider public concerns. Analysis will focus on the Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action. The analysis will evaluate each installation's capability to support the stationing and training of the 5th SBCT in conjunction with meeting the requirements set forth in the National Security Strategy (2006) and its supporting Army initiatives and plans.

The SEIS will assess, consider, and compare the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects from the permanent stationing of the 5th SBCT in Hawaii and reasonable alternate locations. These locations could include permanent stationing of the 5th SBCT in Hawaii, at Fort Richardson and Donnelly Training Area in Alaska, Fort Lewis and Yakima Training Center in Washington, Fort Carson and Piñon Canyon Maneuver site in Colorado, or Fort Knox in Kentucky. The no action alternative is to return the 2–25th BDE(L) to its original structure as it existed prior to its transformation. Under established Army Force Structure the no-action alternative is not feasible, as the ACP directed that all Brigades be transformed to expeditionary modular standardized configurations. Only three types of expeditionary modular BCTs exist; Heavy, Infantry and Stryker.

The primary environmental issues to be analyzed will include those identified as the result of the scoping process and installation-specific considerations. These issues may include impacts to soil, water and air quality, airspace conflicts, natural and cultural resources, land use compatibility, noise, socio-economics, environmental justice, energy use, human health and safety considerations, and infrastructure and range/training requirements.

Scoping and Public Comment: All interested members of the public, including native communities and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes (to include Alaska Native Tribes), Native Hawaiian groups, and Federal, State, and local agencies are invited to participate in the scoping process for the preparation of this SEIS. Written comments identifying environmental issues, concerns and opportunities to be analyzed in the SEIS will be accepted following publication of the Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register**. There will be a 45-day public comment period following publication of the Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register**. Scoping meetings will be held at the installations identified as potentially reasonable alternative home stationing sites. Notification of the times and locations for the scoping meetings will be published in local newspapers. The scoping process will help identify environmental issues, concerns and opportunities to be analyzed in the SEIS.

Dated: December 28, 2006.

Addison D. Davis, IV,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health).

[FR Doc. 06–9966 Filed 1–3–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) intends to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership initiative (GNEP PEIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) and DOE's regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508 and 10 CFR Part 1021, respectively). GNEP would encourage expansion of domestic and international nuclear energy production while reducing nuclear proliferation risks, and reduce the volume, thermal output, and radiotoxicity of spent nuclear fuel (spent fuel or SNF) before disposal in a geologic repository.

Domestically, GNEP involves a programmatic proposal as well as project-specific proposals. The programmatic proposal is to begin to recycle spent fuel and destroy the long-lived radioactive components of that spent fuel. Toward this end, GNEP includes project-specific proposals to construct and operate three facilities. The proposed nuclear fuel recycling center would separate the SNF into its reusable components and waste components and manufacture new nuclear fuel using reusable components that still have the potential for use in nuclear power generation. The proposed advanced recycling reactor would destroy long-lived radioactive elements in the fuel while generating electricity. The advanced fuel cycle research facility would perform research into SNF recycling processes and other aspects of advanced nuclear fuel cycles. The GNEP PEIS will consider 13 sites as possible locations for one or more of these facilities, as well as alternative technologies to be used in these facilities. Internationally, GNEP involves two programmatic initiatives. First, the United States would cooperate with countries that have advanced

nuclear programs to supply nuclear fuel services to countries that refrain from pursuing enrichment or recycling facilities to make their own nuclear fuel. Such countries would have no need to develop the technology and infrastructure to enrich uranium or separate plutonium, both of which have application in the production of nuclear weapons. Second, the United States would promote proliferation-resistant nuclear power reactors suitable for use in developing economies.

The GNEP PEIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts of these programmatic and project-specific proposals, as well as reasonable alternatives. The GNEP PEIS also will evaluate at a programmatic level the potential environmental impacts associated with the international aspects of GNEP, including alternatives. The **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this Notice of Intent (NOI) describes the alternatives that DOE proposes to evaluate in the GNEP PEIS. This NOI also identifies dates, times, and locations for public scoping meetings on the GNEP PEIS.

DATES: DOE invites Federal, state, and local governments, Native American Tribes, industry, other organizations, and members of the public to provide comments on the proposed scope, alternatives, and environmental issues to be analyzed in the GNEP PEIS. The public scoping period starts with the publication of this NOI in the **Federal Register** and will continue through April 4, 2007. All comments received during the public scoping period will be considered in preparing the GNEP PEIS. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable. Public scoping meetings are discussed below in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. Federal or state agencies, local governments, or Native American Tribes that want to be considered as a cooperating agency in preparation of this PEIS should contact Mr. Timothy A. Frazier at the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments, suggestions, or relevant information on the GNEP PEIS to: Mr. Timothy A. Frazier, GNEP PEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119, Telephone: 866–645–7803, Fax: 866–645–7807, e-mail to: *GNEP-PEIS@nuclear.energy.gov*. Please mark envelopes, faxes, and e-mail: ''GNEP PEIS Comments.'' Additional information on GNEP may be found at *http://www.gnep.energy.gov*.

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC–20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0103, 202–586–4600, or by leaving a message at 1–800–472–2756. Additional information regarding DOE's NEPA activities is available on the DOE NEPA Web site at *http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa*. This NOI is available at *http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa* and *http://www.gnep.energy.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Terminology

To aid in understanding the information that follows, a brief explanation of key terms and the three proposed facilities that support GNEP is provided below:

- Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative—The Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative (AFCI) is an ongoing DOE initiative to develop proliferation-resistant spent nuclear fuel treatment and transmutation technologies to enable a transition from the current once-through nuclear fuel cycle to a future sustainable, closed nuclear fuel cycle where valuable material is separated from spent fuel and recycled, thereby extracting energy and reducing waste.
- Enriched uranium—Uranium in which the proportion of uranium-235 to uranium-238 has been increased above the naturally occurring 0.7 percent uranium-235. Reactor-grade uranium is uranium that has been enriched to about three to five percent uranium-235 for use in reactors to produce electricity. The same process can be used to further enrich uranium for weapons use.
- Fission—The splitting of an atom into at least two other atoms and the release of a relatively large amount of energy. Two or three neutrons are usually released during the transformation. Fission is the scientific principle by which nuclear power reactors work.
- Fission product—The atoms (fission fragments) formed by the fission of heavy elements such as uranium. Fission products build up in nuclear fuel as a normal part of reactor operations.
- Light-water reactor—A nuclear power reactor that uses water to cool the reactor and to moderate (slow down) neutrons. It belongs to the class of nuclear power plants called ''thermal reactors.'' Most nuclear power reactors in the world are light-water reactors.
- Recycling—The separation of used nuclear fuel into: Uranium; waste (fission products and fuel element structural materials); and transuranics. Uranium and transuranics would be incorporated into new fuel to be consumed in reactors to generate electricity.
- Spent nuclear fuel (used nuclear fuel)—The fuel that has been used in a nuclear reactor. As a typical nuclear reactor operates, the fission process creates energy to generate electricity. During this process, the uranium is being ''used'' and fission products accumulate and interfere with efficiency until the fuel can no longer effectively produce energy. At this point, the used fuel is said to be ''spent'' and is replaced.
- Transmutation—The conversion of one element to another by changing its atomic structure. There are two primary transmutation processes: Fission, which splits atoms, releasing energy; and neutron capture, which adds one neutron to an atom. Transmutation can be used to destroy radioactive elements with very long half-lives, such as transuranic elements, by converting them to stable elements or elements with shorter half-lives, while producing energy.
- Transuranics (transuranic elements)—Elements with atomic numbers greater than uranium (atomic number 92), including neptunium (93), plutonium (94), americium (95), and curium (96). Transuranic elements are created in nuclear power reactors when uranium absorbs or captures neutrons.
- Uranium enrichment—The physical process of increasing the proportion (or ratio) of uranium-235 to uranium-238 to make the uranium more usable as nuclear fuel.

The three proposed GNEP facilities that DOE will evaluate in the GNEP PEIS are:

- A nuclear fuel recycling center—A nuclear fuel recycling center would support two of the three key components of an SNF recycling program: (1) It would separate light-water reactor SNF and fast reactor SNF into their reusable and non-reusable constituents, and (2) after completion of transmutation fuel development at the advanced fuel cycle research facility, it would fabricate such fuel for use in the destruction of transuranic elements in a fast reactor (the advanced recycling reactor). A nuclear fuel recycling center could be privately owned and operated, potentially with government-supplied incentives or other involvement yet to be determined.
- An advanced recycling reactor—A fast neutron spectrum reactor that would be capable of converting long-lived radioactive elements (e.g., plutonium and other transuranics) into shorter-lived radioactive elements while

producing electricity. The advanced recycling reactor could be privately owned and operated, potentially with government-supplied incentives or other involvement yet to be determined.

• An advanced fuel cycle research facility—A research facility that DOE would design, build, and operate at a DOE site. Among other activities, the advanced fuel cycle research facility would support research and development (R&D) relating to separation and fabrication of fast reactor transmutation fuel to enable the destruction of transuranic elements separated from SNF.

II. Background

The United States faces significant energy challenges including increasing energy supplies in ways that protect and improve the environment. Meeting each of these challenges is critical to expanding the United States economy and protecting energy and national security.

The President's Advanced Energy Initiative has identified three ways to meet the challenge of generating more electricity: Clean coal technology, advanced emission-free nuclear power, and renewable resources such as solar and wind. The GNEP PEIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of alternative ways to recycle spent nuclear fuel using technologies that increase its usefulness while reducing the threat of proliferation.

Nuclear power provides approximately one-fifth of the electricity that the United States uses to power factories, office buildings, homes, and schools. Over 100 operating nuclear power plants, located at 65 sites in 31 states, constitute the second-largest source of electricity generation in the United States. The plants are, on average, approximately 25 years old and are licensed to operate for 40 years with an option to renew for an additional 20 years. Nuclear reactors do not emit the air pollutants and greenhouse gases that result from coal-fired, oil-fired, and natural gas-fired generation. Nuclear power contributes to United States energy security.

Historically, the United States has used a ''once through'' or ''open'' fuel cycle in which nuclear fuel is used a single time by a nuclear power reactor, and then the spent fuel is stored at that plant pending disposal. The Federal government has responsibility for the disposal of SNF, and plans to dispose of it in the geologic repository located at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

GNEP would establish a ''closed'' fuel cycle by recycling spent nuclear fuel rather than disposing of it after one use. Recycling spent fuel rather than disposing of it potentially would extend the stock of nuclear fuel available to meet growing electricity demand and reduce waste from the generation of nuclear power. DOE has been researching and developing recycling technologies in its laboratories for many years and has identified processes that would be needed for GNEP to accomplish its objectives. However, additional R&D is necessary to implement the proposed GNEP recycling associated with the transmutation fuel.

GNEP also offers the potential for more efficient nuclear waste disposal. Technological advancements through GNEP could reduce the volume, thermal output, and radiotoxicity of waste requiring permanent disposal at the Yucca Mountain geologic repository. It is important to emphasize, however, that GNEP does not diminish in any way the need for, or the urgency of, the nuclear waste disposal program at Yucca Mountain. Yucca Mountain is still required under any fuel cycle scenario.

The Energy Information Administration projects that the world's electricity consumption will double from 2003 to 2030. GNEP as envisioned would promote the expanded use of carbon-free nuclear energy to meet growing electricity demand throughout the world, while reducing nuclear proliferation risks. GNEP would achieve this goal by having nations with secure, advanced nuclear capabilities provide fuel services—fresh fuel and recovery of used fuel—to other nations that refrain from pursuing uranium enrichment or recycling activities. The closed fuel cycle model envisioned by this partnership requires development and deployment of technologies that enable recycling and reduction of long-lived radioactive waste.

As these technologies are developed, the United States would work with partners to provide developing countries with reactors that would be secure, cost-effective, and able to meet their energy needs, as well as related nuclear services that would ensure that they have a reliable fuel supply. In exchange, these countries would agree to use nuclear power only for electricity and refrain from pursuing uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities that can be used to develop nuclear weapons. By working with other nations under the GNEP, the United States could provide safe and reliable energy that growing economies need, while reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation.

The commercial marketplace will ultimately determine how to meet future increased demand for electricity. By recycling SNF, GNEP is designed to provide an alternative to the once-through fuel cycle. DOE is not proposing in this PEIS that DOE would construct and operate any facilities for the primary purpose of generating electricity. The proposed advanced recycling reactor would demonstrate the feasibility of consuming transuranics in transmutation fuel in a reactor, while also generating electricity.

III. The Purpose and Need for Agency Action

DOE's underlying purpose and need in proposing this action is to encourage expansion of domestic and international nuclear energy production while reducing the risks associated with nuclear proliferation, and to reduce the volume, thermal output, and radiotoxicity of SNF before disposal in a geologic repository. To meet its non-proliferation goals with regard to SNF recycling, DOE will only assess as reasonable alternatives those technologies that do not separate pure plutonium.

IV. Advance Notice of Intent; Funding Opportunity Announcement; Requests for Expressions of Interest

On March 22, 2006, DOE published in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 14505) an Advance NOI (ANOI) related to the then-proposed GNEP Technology Demonstration Program EIS. That ANOI explained the goals of GNEP as it was then conceived and identified the three major project-specific elements (the demonstration of advanced separations processes, conversion of transuranics, and advanced fuel fabrication) of a GNEP Technology Demonstration Program, which was intended to demonstrate closed fuel cycle technologies at an engineering scale. The ANOI also invited comments on the proposed scope, alternatives, and environmental issues to be analyzed in that EIS. DOE received over 800 comment documents, more than 750 of which contained similar substantive comments.

DOE considered all comments received. One of the main comments received was that DOE should do a programmatic NEPA review instead of limiting its review to the three facilities. Comments received on the ANOI also included the following:

• The proposed technologies are not sufficiently advanced to proceed with engineering-scale demonstrations;

• DOE should pursue and analyze alternatives to nuclear power in a PEIS;

• DOE is proceeding with Federal action related to GNEP before conducting the required NEPA analysis.

These issues will be addressed in the GNEP PEIS.

In addition, a number of foreign governments and private companies have expressed interest in cooperating with DOE to develop and deploy advanced nuclear fuel recycling technologies. Some of these entities indicated they are pursuing technologies that may be ready for deployment faster, and at a larger, commercial scale, than those currently under development by DOE.

In response to the comments and the interest expressed, DOE has made two fundamental changes to its GNEP NEPA strategy: (1) DOE will prepare a PEIS to assess the programmatic elements of GNEP, as well as the three proposed projects; and (2) DOE is now proposing to analyze engineering-scale and commercial-scale demonstrations of GNEP technologies at two of the three proposed facilities, rather than only at the smaller engineering scale.

Since publication of the ANOI, DOE has taken several steps to determine the level of interest in GNEP and obtain useful information. First, DOE has sought input regarding potential hosting sites in the United States for a nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor. On August 3, 2006, DOE issued a Financial Assistance Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for public or commercial entities interested in hosting GNEP facilities to conduct detailed siting studies. These siting studies will be used by DOE to help evaluate potential locations for a nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor. Applications for these financial assistance grants were due to DOE by September 7, 2006. On November 29, 2006, DOE announced that 11 commercial and public consortia had been selected to receive grants under this FOA. The study sites and sponsors are:

Atomic City, Idaho—EnergySolutions, LLC,

Barnwell, South Carolina—EnergySolutions, LLC,

Hanford Site, Washington—Tri-City Industrial Development Council/Columbia Basin Consulting Group,

Hobbs, New Mexico—Eddy Lea Energy Alliance,

Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho—Regional Development Alliance, Inc.,

Morris, Illinois—General Electric Company,

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee—Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee,

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Kentucky—Paducah Uranium Plant Asset Utilization, Inc.,

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Ohio—Piketon Initiative for Nuclear Independence, LLC,

Roswell, New Mexico—EnergySolutions, LLC,

Savannah River National Laboratory, South Carolina—Economic Development,

Partnership of Aiken and Edgefield Counties.

Second, on August 7, 2006, DOE issued two requests for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) related to GNEP (see 44 FR 44673 and 44 FR 44676). The purpose of the EOIs was to obtain information from the domestic and international nuclear industry on the potential development of a commercial-scale nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor using advanced technologies available now or in the near future. DOE is using the industry responses to the EOIs to help identify available technologies, alternative facility sizes, potential financial arrangements, and other factors related to the development of a nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor. This information will contribute to the development of reasonable alternatives for evaluation in the GNEP PEIS.

DOE also would pursue an R&D program using an advanced fuel cycle research facility to develop additional technologies (not yet available) to separate and fabricate transmutation fuel for a fast reactor. DOE did not include an advanced fuel cycle research facility in the FOA or EOI processes because an advanced fuel cycle research facility is intended to be an R&D facility on a DOE site. Like a nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor, an advanced fuel cycle research facility will be evaluated in the GNEP PEIS.

V. Description of GNEP Recycling

In general terms, GNEP recycling would work as follows. Spent fuel would be received from commercial nuclear reactors and would be processed in a nuclear fuel recycling center to separate the potentially reusable constituents (uranium and transuranic elements) from the non-reusable constituents (e.g., fuel element structural materials and fission products). The reusable constituents would be used to make transmutation fuel for an advanced recycling reactor and, possibly, other reactor fuels (e.g., uranium could be re-enriched and made into light-water reactor fuel). The transmutation fuel would be consumed in an advanced recycling reactor, and the advanced recycling reactor would also produce electricity during these operations. The spent transmutation fuel would then be separated and the remaining transuranics used to make new transmutation fuel to be further destroyed in the advanced recycling reactor while producing electricity. Non-reusable constituents would be converted to waste forms for eventual disposal in a geologic repository or for other long-term storage or disposal, as appropriate. This fuel cycle has the potential to reduce the volume, thermal output, and radiotoxicity of waste that would need to be placed in a geologic repository, thereby increasing the geologic repository's effective capacity and lessening the need for additional repository capacity.

VI. Current Research and Development Activities

DOE has been conducting R&D related to the nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear reactor programs for many decades. Current R&D efforts are focused on exploring new, innovative concepts for advanced nuclear energy technologies that can address the key issues facing the long-term viability and expansion of nuclear power, including: The need to reduce and deal satisfactorily with nuclear wastes; improving economic performance; further advancing the safety of nuclear power generation; and addressing issues associated with the proliferation of fissile materials and sensitive nuclear technologies. GNEP would build upon these activities. While these activities share a common purpose with GNEP, they are outside the scope of the GNEP PEIS.

VII. Proposed Alternatives

The GNEP PEIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts of programmatic and project-specific proposals, as well as reasonable alternatives.

A. International Programmatic Alternatives

The GNEP PEIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of two proposed international initiatives and, for each, a No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would reflect the continuation of the status quo.

The two initiatives are the reliable fuel services program and the reactor program. Under the reliable fuel services program, the United States would work with partner nations to provide assurances of fuel availability for operators of nuclear power reactors in nations that refrain from pursuing uranium enrichment and reprocessing

programs. DOE is not proposing any specific action with regard to the reliable fuel services program, and the GNEP PEIS will include only a general, qualitative analysis of the potential impacts on the United States or the global commons that might be involved with such activities.

Under the reactor program, the United States would explore promoting proliferation-resistant reactors designed to meet the needs of developing economies. Because the designs for these reactors are not yet determined and DOE is not proposing any specific action to make the reactors available, the GNEP PEIS will include only a general, qualitative analysis of the potential impacts on the United States or the global commons that might be involved with such activities.

B. Domestic Programmatic Alternatives

The domestic programmatic alternatives currently envisioned are:

Programmatic Alternative 1, No Action Alternative: Continue the status quo by relying upon a ''once through'' or ''open'' fuel cycle in which commercial reactors generate and store SNF until DOE can dispose of it in a geologic repository, while continuing the ongoing nuclear fuel cycle R&D activities, including those activities associated with DOE's Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative (AFCI).

Programmatic Alternative 2, Proposed Action: Pursue the GNEP closed fuel cycle and recycle SNF in a system that includes one or more nuclear fuel recycling centers and one or more advanced recycling reactors to process SNF generated after their deployment. The PEIS analysis would be based upon alternative assumptions regarding the amount of SNF processed and the corresponding potential cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable actions as a result of this alternative.

The closed fuel cycle programmatic alternative will include an analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with broad implementation of a closed fuel cycle. In addition, DOE is now proposing to site, construct, and operate a single set of closed fuel cycle facilities.

C. Domestic Project-Specific Alternatives

The project-specific alternatives are:

Project Alternative 1, No Action Alternative: Continue relying upon a ''once through'' or ''open'' fuel cycle in which commercial reactors generate and store SNF until DOE can dispose of it in a geologic repository, while continuing the ongoing nuclear fuel cycle R&D activities, including those activities associated with DOE's AFCI. A nuclear fuel recycling center, an advanced recycling reactor, and an advanced fuel cycle research facility would not be built.

Project Alternative 2, Proposed Action: Select site(s) and construct and operate the following GNEP facilities: (1) A nuclear fuel recycling center, (2) an advanced recycling reactor, and (3) an advanced fuel cycle research facility. The GNEP PEIS will assess alternative technologies and implementation approaches (e.g., engineering or commercial facility scale) that are deemed reasonable, based in part on the EOIs discussed in the **BACKGROUND** section above. With respect to a nuclear fuel recycling center, DOE plans to evaluate alternative separations technologies for SNF from commercial light-water reactors and the advanced recycling reactor. For each technology, DOE would evaluate potential waste streams and alternative waste forms (e.g., borosilicate glass, ceramic).

For a nuclear fuel recycling center, DOE will analyze several alternative SNF throughputs from approximately 100 metric tons of heavy metal (MTHM) annually, up to 3,000 MTHM annually. At the low range of throughputs, the analyses would correspond to engineering-scale capacities consistent with the ANOI. At the high range of throughput, the Department expects that a nuclear fuel recycling center would have the capacity to recycle up to 2,000–3,000 MTHM annually, which would enable a nuclear fuel recycling center to recycle commercial SNF inventories at approximately the same rate that such inventories are now generated. DOE also will assess appropriate storage alternatives for the recycling facilities. DOE will evaluate storage of spent fuel prior to recycling, as well as storage of waste generated from recycling, at a level related to the projected throughput for a nuclear fuel recycling center.

For an advanced recycling reactor, the baseline technology that will be assessed is a sodium-cooled fast reactor. DOE plans to evaluate alternative fuel types (e.g., oxide, metal) and power ratings (250—2,000 $MW_{thermal}$) for an advanced recycling reactor. DOE also will assess appropriate storage alternatives for spent fuel generated by an advanced recycling reactor prior to recycling, at a level related to the projected size of an advanced recycling reactor.

DOE envisions that a nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor could begin operation before DOE has fully completed its research and development of the transmutation fuel recycling at an advanced fuel cycle research facility. During this interim period, DOE may use a nuclear fuel recycling center to separate light-water reactor SNF and support the fabrication of fast reactor driver fuel which would be consumed in the advanced recycling reactor. This fuel could be made of uranium and plutonium, but would likely not contain other transuranics. Once DOE completes the R&D required to fabricate fuel containing other transuranic elements, it would use a nuclear fuel recycling center to fabricate fast reactor fuels containing other transuranics, and demonstrate the consumption of transuranic elements in an advanced recycling reactor. DOE would then separate the resulting spent transmutation fuel and fabricate new transmutation fuel in a nuclear fuel recycling center.

At this time, the following DOE sites are under consideration for the location of a nuclear fuel recycling center and/or an advanced recycling reactor: Idaho National Laboratory (Idaho Falls, Idaho); Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Paducah, Kentucky); Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Piketon, Ohio); Savannah River Site (Aiken, South Carolina); Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Oak Ridge, Tennessee); and Hanford Site (Richland, Washington). In addition, non-DOE sites in the following locations also are under consideration for the location of a nuclear fuel recycling center and/or an advanced recycling reactor: Atomic City, Idaho; Morris, Illinois; Hobbs, New Mexico; Roswell, New Mexico; and Barnwell, South Carolina.

DOE is proposing that the advanced fuel cycle research facility be located at a DOE site. The DOE sites under consideration include: Idaho National Laboratory (Idaho Falls, Idaho); Argonne National Laboratory (DuPage County, Illinois); Los Alamos National Laboratory (Los Alamos, New Mexico); Savannah River Site (Aiken, South Carolina); Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Oak Ridge, Tennessee); and Hanford Site (Richland, Washington).

To determine reasonable site alternatives for an advanced fuel cycle research facility, DOE is conducting a site screening process that is considering criteria specific to an advanced fuel cycle research facility. Similarly, for a nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor, DOE will use the information received through the FOA process, as well as other information, to develop the reasonable site alternatives. As a result of these site screening processes, some sites may be eliminated from

consideration as reasonable site alternatives. DOE will document the results of the site screening processes in the GNEP PEIS *Site Alternative Screening Report.*

DOE intends that the alternatives and analyses in the GNEP PEIS will provide the maximum amount of flexibility in making decisions related to GNEP. In any event, however, in order for a site to be selected as the preferred site for a facility, DOE will require adequate assurances that there are no legal impediments to the siting and operation of that facility in that State.

The GNEP PEIS analysis will address the potential environmental impacts of proceeding with a nuclear fuel recycling center, an advanced recycling reactor, and an advanced fuel cycle facility, either individually or in any combination. In addition, the PEIS will analyze the environmental impacts of not developing transmutation fuel in a timely manner.

VIII. Potential Environmental Issues for Analysis

DOE has identified the following potential environmental issues for analysis in the GNEP PEIS. The list is presented to facilitate comment on the scope of the PEIS; it is not intended to be comprehensive or to predetermine the alternatives to be analyzed or their potential impacts. Additional issues may be identified as a result of the public scoping process. The current list includes the following issues:

- Potential impacts to the general population and workers from radiological and nonradiological releases
- Potential impacts of emissions on air and water quality
- Potential impacts on flora and fauna of a region
- Potential impacts from transportation—in the United States and across the global commons
- Potential impacts from treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials and waste
- Potential impacts from postulated accidents, as well as potential impacts from acts of terrorism or sabotage
- Potential disproportionately high and adverse effects on low-income and minority populations (environmental justice)
- Potential Native American concerns (cultural and archaeological)
- Short-term and long-term land use impacts
- Compliance with applicable Federal and state regulations
- Long-term health and environmental impacts
- Long-term site suitability
- Consumption of natural resources and energy
- Socioeconomic impacts to potentially affected communities
- Potential impacts to cultural resources
- Cumulative impacts
- Pollution prevention and waste management practices
- Potential impacts from decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of facilities

IX. Public Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings will be held to provide the public with an opportunity to present comments, ask questions, and discuss the scope of the GNEP PEIS with DOE officials. DOE selected the following scoping meeting locations based on the responses received to the Financial Assistance Funding Opportunity Announcement and a preliminary identification of DOE sites that could support the proposed DOE-directed R&D facility.

As discussed in this NOI, inclusion on the list below does not necessarily mean that a particular location will be considered as a reasonable site alternative for any GNEP facilities.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee: DoubleTree Hotel (Salons A and B) 215 South Illinois Avenue Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830 Tuesday, February 13, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

North Augusta, South Carolina: North Augusta Community Center 495 Brookside Avenue North Augusta, South Carolina 29841 Thursday, February 15, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Joliet, Illinois: Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center 227 North Gougar Road Joliet, Illinois 60435 Thursday, February 22, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Hobbs, New Mexico: Lea County Event Center 5101 N Lovington-Hobbs Hwy Hobbs, New Mexico 88240 Monday, February 26, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Roswell, New Mexico: Best Western Sally Port Inn & Suites (Ballroom) 2000 N Main Street Roswell, New Mexico 88201–6450 Tuesday, February 27, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Los Alamos, New Mexico: Hilltop House Best Western (La Vista Room) 400 Trinity Drive (at Central) Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544 Thursday, March 1, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Paducah, Kentucky: Executive Inn Riverfront (Meeting Room International D) One Executive Blvd. Paducah, Kentucky 42001 Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Piketon, Ohio: Ohio State University Endeavor Center, Room 160 1862 Shyville Road Piketon, Ohio 45661 Thursday, March 8, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Pasco, Washington: Red Lion Hotel (Gold Room) 2525 N. 20th Avenue Pasco, Washington 99301 Tuesday, March 13, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Idaho Falls, Idaho: Red Lion Hotel on the Falls (Yellowstone/Teton Rooms) 475 River Parkway Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402 Thursday, March 15, 2007, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Washington, DC: Hotel Washington (Washington Room) 15th and Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20004 Monday, March 19, 2007, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

DOE also will publish notices in local media in advance of the scheduled public scoping meetings with the dates, times, and locations.

X. NEPA Process

DOE plans to publish the GNEP Draft PEIS in 2007 and the GNEP Final PEIS in 2008. Following the 90-day public scoping period that commences with publication of this NOI, DOE will prepare the GNEP Draft PEIS. Once approved, DOE will announce the availability of the GNEP Draft PEIS in the **Federal Register** and hold public hearings to solicit comments on the GNEP Draft PEIS from Federal, state, and local governments, Native American Tribes, industry, other organizations, and members of the public. These comments will be considered and addressed in the GNEP Final PEIS. DOE will issue one or more Records of Decision no sooner than 30 days after publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the GNEP Final PEIS.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 27, 2006.

David R. Hill,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. E6–22548 Filed 1–3–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Privacy Act of 1974; Notice to Amend an Existing System of Records

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A–130, the Department of Energy (DOE) is publishing a notice of a proposed amendment to an existing system of records. DOE proposes to amend and change the name of DOE–21 ''Emergency Defense Mobilization

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact(s):
Craig Stevens, (202) 586-4940

For Immediate Release
January 10, 2007

Department of Energy Releases Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Strategic Plan

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon today released the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Strategic Plan, which details the Initiative's purpose, principles and implementation strategy. The Plan outlines a path forward to enable worldwide increase in the use of safe, emissions-free nuclear energy without contributing to the spread of nuclear weapons capabilities in a manner that responsibly addresses the waste produced.

"For the United States, GNEP is good policy; for industry, it could be very good business," Assistant Secretary Spurgeon said. "Releasing GNEP's Strategic Plan demonstrates the seriousness DOE places on this Initiative as well as the seriousness of our nation's need to incorporate safe, emissions-free nuclear power into our nation's energy mix. While DOE labs and research facilities host some of the best scientists, the GNEP Strategic Plan gives researchers, experts and industry the opportunity to examine and understand our vision."

The Strategic Plan is a guiding document, one that can be modified if the U.S. Government, our international partners and industry deem it appropriate. It lays out DOE's plan to prepare for construction and operation of a nuclear fuel recycling center and an advanced recycling reactor, and for continuing an aggressive research and development program focused on advanced fuel cycle technology. The Plan also specifies criteria necessary to consider in order to safely and successfully implement the goals of GNEP.

The Strategic Plan provides a framework for the U.S. to:

1. Expand nuclear power to meet growing energy demand;
2. Develop, demonstrate, and deploy advanced technologies for recycling spent nuclear fuel without separating plutonium;
3. Develop, demonstrate, and deploy advance reactors that consume transuranics;
4. Establish reliable fuel services worldwide;
5. Develop, demonstrate, and deploy proliferation resistant reactors appropriate to power grids and;
6. Develop enhanced safeguards to ensure nuclear energy systems are used for peaceful purposes.

This Plan identifies the technology, economic and environmental information necessary to present a convincing case to the Secretary of Energy for his decision on a path forward regarding the design and construction of recycling facilities in support of GNEP.

GNEP is a part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, which seeks to reduce our reliance in imported oil by changing the way we power our cars, homes and business. For more information on GNEP, visit: http://www.gnep.gov/.

GNEP Strategic Plan Jan 2007

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact(s):
Craig Stevens, (202) 586-4940

For Immediate Release
January 30, 2007

Department of Energy Awards Over $10 Million for GNEP Siting Grants

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that over $10 million will be used for 11 commercial and public consortia selected to conduct detailed siting studies for integrated spent fuel recycling facilities under President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

"These facilities will enable us to effectively recycle spent nuclear fuel in a safe and proliferation-resistant manner. They will set the technological standard and allow us to influence energy policy abroad while increasing energy security here at home," DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon said. "With the negotiations complete, we are ready to proceed from an initial phase to one where actual studies can explore sites for GNEP-related facilities."

Award recipients, announced in November 2006, will carry out siting studies to determine the possibility of hosting an advanced nuclear fuel recycling center and/or an advanced recycling reactor. Beginning today, recipients will conduct detailed site characterization studies of the sites which were proposed in their Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) responses. Recipients will have 90-days to complete these studies and submit a Site Characterization Report to DOE on May 1, 2007.

Of the 11 sites, six are currently owned and operated by DOE. Sites, lead award recipients, and award amounts are as follows:

Proposed Site Location	**Teaming Consortia**	**Award Amounts**
1. Atomic City, ID	Energy*Solutions*, LLC	$915,448
2. Barnwell, SC	Energy*Solutions*, LLC	$936,151
3. Hanford Site, WA	Tri-City Industrial Development Council/Columbia Basin Consulting Group	$1,027,715

4. Hobbs, NM	Eddy Lea Energy Alliance	$1,590,016
5. Idaho National Laboratory, ID	Regional Development Alliance, Inc	$648,745
6. Morris, IL	General Electric Company	$1,484,875
7. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN	Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee	$894,704
8. Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, KY	Paducah Uranium Plant Asset Utilization, Inc.	$664,600
9. Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, OH	Piketon Initiative for Nuclear Independence, LLC	$673,761
10. Roswell, NM	Energy*Solutions*, LLC	$1,134,522
11. Savannah River National Laboratory, SC	Economic Development Partnership of Aiken and Edgefield Counties	$468,420
	TOTAL:	**$10,458,242**

Information generated from the detailed siting studies of non-DOE sites is expected to address a variety of site-related matters, including site and nearby land uses; demographics; ecological and habitat assessment; threatened or endangered species; historical, archaeological and cultural resources; geology and seismology; weather and climate; and regulatory and permitting requirements. Information requirements for the DOE sites are more limited due to the availability of previous studies.

Such information may also be used in preparing the draft programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) – a process that began in early January (http://www.energy.gov/news/4560.htm) – which will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from each proposed GNEP facility.

An advanced nuclear fuel recycling center contains facilities where usable uranium and transuranics are separated from spent light water reactor fuel then produced into new fuel (or “transmutation fuel”) which then could be reused in an advanced recycling reactor. This advanced recycling reactor is a fast reactor that would demonstrate the ability to reuse and consume materials recovered from spent nuclear fuel, including long-lived elements that would otherwise be disposed of in a geologic repository.

GNEP is a part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, which seeks to reduce our reliance in imported oil by changing the way we power our cars, homes and business. For more information on GNEP, visit: http://www.gnep.gov/. Additional information on the DOE’s nuclear energy program may be found on http://www.nuclear.energy.gov/.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

support document for the PEIS investigated the feasibility of depleted uranium disposal at six low-level waste disposal facilities based on waste acceptance criteria, available capacity, and disposal cost (*Depleted Uranium Storage and Disposal Trade Study:* Summary Report, ORNL/TM–2000/10). This document and subsequent follow-up studies have verified that the only currently operating dry-environment, low-level waste disposal facilities that are feasible for disposal of the depleted uranium oxide conversion product are the NTS and EnergySolutions facilities.

Like the PEIS, site-specific EISs for each conversion facility assumed that depleted uranium oxide would be classified as low-level waste. This assumption is consistent with a recent ruling by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the licensing proceeding for a commercial uranium enrichment facility (NRC 2005a,b,c,d and 2006a,b). The site-specific EISs stated that the disposal facility (or facilities) would be (1) selected in a manner consistent with DOE policies and orders, and (2) authorized or licensed to receive the conversion products by DOE (in conformance with DOE orders), the NRC (in conformance with NRC regulations), or an NRC agreement state agency (in conformance with state laws and regulations determined to be equivalent to NRC regulations).

DOE is now proposing to amend the site-specific RODs to decide that the depleted uranium oxide conversion product may be disposed of at either the NTS or the EnergySolutions low-level waste disposal facilities. Accordingly, DOE has prepared the draft SA that is the subject of this Notice. All other aspects of the depleted UF_6 conversion program remain as previously described in the site-specific EISs and RODs.

The draft SA identifies no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that bear on DOE's decisions on disposal locations or the impacts of those decisions. Since issuance of the two site-specific UF_6 conversion facility final EISs, the following circumstances have changed. In May 2006, a contract was signed with Solvay Fluorides, a commercial vendor, for purchase of the HF co-product. On June 2, 2006, the NRC issued an order that determined that the Envirocare (now EnergySolutions) site near Clive, Utah, appears to be suitable for near-term disposal of depleted uranium. The transportation campaign has been slightly modified to include more cylinders per railcar with fewer shipments per year. Impacts from the modified campaign for both operations and accident scenarios are projected to be about the same as those presented in the site-specific EISs.

DOE believes, based on the analysis in the draft SA, that disposal at either NTS or EnergySolutions low-level waste disposal facilities are reasonable alternatives. Regarding the alternative of disposal at the EnergySolutions facility, DOE believes that adequate NEPA documentation exists to support disposal of any unused depleted uranium oxide conversion product as well as for emptied UF_6 cylinders that would be used for disposal containers and the small quantity of CaF_2 that would be generated during the conversion process. With respect to NTS low-level waste facility, the draft SA analyses show that there is adequate NEPA coverage for all actions leading up to delivery at the NTS and that site-specific NEPA coverage at the NTS is adequate for disposal of up to 60,000 m^3 of unused depleted uranium oxide conversion product. Furthermore, upcoming reviews of the NTS site-wide EIS will evaluate disposal of additional uranium oxide conversion product volumes at NTS. Accordingly, DOE believes that a supplemental EIS (or an environmental assessment) is not needed to support amending the site-specific RODs to address disposal of the depleted uranium oxide conversion product.

DOE plans to issue amended RODs under the conversion facility EISs no sooner than 30 days after issuance of the final SA. DOE will consider all public comments on the draft SA submitted by May 18, 2007.

Issued in Washington, DC, March 27, 2007.

Mark W. Frei,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget.

[FR Doc. E7–6039 Filed 4–2–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Extension of Time to Submit Scoping Comments on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

AGENCY: Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of extension of time to submit scoping comments.

SUMMARY: In response to public requests, the Department of Energy (DOE) announces an extension of time to submit comments on the proposed scope, alternatives, and environmental issues to be analyzed in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP PEIS). This date has been extended to June 4, 2007, thereby giving an additional 61 days to provide comments.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments, suggestions, or relevant information on the GNEP PEIS to: Mr. Timothy A. Frazier, GNEP PEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119; Telephone: 866–645–7803, Fax: 866–645–7807, e-mail to: *GNEP-PEIS@nuclear.energy.gov.* Please mark envelopes, faxes, and e-mails: ''GNEP PEIS Comments.'' Additional information on GNEP may be found at *http://www.gnep.energy.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC–20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0103, 202–586–4600, or by leaving a message at 1–800–472–2756. Additional information regarding DOE's NEPA activities is available on the DOE NEPA Web site at *http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa.* This notice is available at *http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa* and *http://www.gnep.energy.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 4, 2007, DOE published a Notice of Intent (NOI) (72 FR 331) to prepare the GNEP PEIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, and the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) and DOE's regulations implementing NEPA, 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and 10 CFR part 1021, respectively. With the publication of the NOI, DOE began the PEIS scoping period and invited Federal, state, and local governments, Native American Tribes, industry, other organizations, and the public to provide comments on the proposed scope, alternatives, and environmental issues to be analyzed in the GNEP PEIS. In response to public requests, DOE is now extending the time for submittal of scoping comments an additional 61 days from April 4, 2007, to June 4, 2007. DOE will consider all comments received during the scoping period in preparing the GNEP PEIS. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 29, 2007.

Dennis R. Spurgeon,

Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy.

[FR Doc. E7–6175 Filed 4–2–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request.

SUMMARY: The EIA is soliciting comments on the proposed revision and three-year extension to the following EIA Forms:

• EIA–63A, ''Annual Solar Thermal Collector Manufacturers Survey.''

• EIA–63B, ''Annual Photovoltaic Module/Cell Manufacturers Survey.''

• EIA–902, ''Annual Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey.''

DATES: Comments must be filed by June 4, 2007. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESS: Send comments to Fred Mayes. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, submission by FAX (202–287–1964) or e-mail *fred.mayes@eia.doe.gov* is recommended. The mailing address is Energy Information Administration, EI–52, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Fred Mayes may be contacted by telephone at 202–287–1750.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of any forms and instructions should be directed to Fred Mayes at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 95–91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the EIA to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Section 3507(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Form EIA–63A, ''Annual Solar Thermal Collector Manufacturers Survey,'' collects information on the distribution of solar thermal panels by manufacturers; Form EIA–63B, ''Annual Photovoltaic Module/Cell Manufacturers Survey,'' collects information on the distribution by manufacturers of photovoltaic (PV) cells/modules; and Form EIA–902, ''Annual Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey,'' collects information on distribution of geothermal heat pumps by manufacturers. Specifically, all forms collect information on manufacturing, imports, exports, and shipments. The EIA has been collecting the above information annually and proposes to continue the surveys. The data collected will be disseminated in electronic products and electronic data files for use by government and private sector analysts. For details on EIA's renewables information program, please visit the renewable and alternative fuels page of EIA's Web site at *http://www.eia.doe.gov/fuelrenewable.html.*

II. Current Actions

EIA proposes to collect information on Forms EIA–63A, EIA–63B, and EIA–902 using EIA's Internet Data Collection (IDC) system as the primary mode for reporting information. Survey respondents must provide an e-mail address to EIA to receive instructions on the procedures for submitting information electronically. The IDC system utilizes secure socket layer software to encrypt and protect the information transmitted between a respondent and EIA. All software that is necessary to report electronically is provided by EIA at no cost to the respondents. Respondents need to register one time with EIA and receive a mailing identification and code prior to reporting electronically.

The EIA has completed an extensive review and update of the renewable survey collection instruments. The objective of the review is to provide a standardized survey instrument and unified data collection approach for all three renewable forms. All three forms collect information from manufacturers of renewable energy equipment. The proposed forms revision is the result of efforts, which includes input from the renewable energy industry, other industry users of the data, government agencies, consumer groups, and private sector analysts. EIA will be requesting approval for its revisions and a three-year extension for its renewable surveys with the following proposed survey changes.

Form EIA–63A, ''Annual Solar Thermal Collector Manufacturers Survey.''

The EIA proposes the following revisions, additions, and deletions to harmonize the data requested across the three surveys.

(1) *Addition:* Item 3.1 (a) Collector Manufacturing.

(2) *Addition:* Item 4.3 Average Thermal Performance Rating of Collector.

(3) *Revision:* Item 4.3 Market Sector becomes Item 4.4 Domestic Shipments by Sector.

• Collect domestic shipments by sector instead of total shipments by sector.

• Change the sector headings from Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Utility, and Other to Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Electric Power, and Transportation.

(4) *Revision/Deletion:* Item 4.4 End Use becomes Item 4.5 Domestic Shipments by End Use.

• Collect only domestic shipments by end use instead of domestic and foreign shipments by end use as the total number of shipments.

• Delete ''other'' end use type category under Item 4.4.8 Other (describe).

(5) *Revision/Deletion:* Item 4.9 becomes Item 4.10. Delete the seller type category Item 4.9 (f) Other (describe).

Form EIA–63B, ''Annual Photovoltaic Modules/Cells Manufacturers Survey.''

The EIA proposes the following revisions, additions, and deletions to harmonize the data requested across the three surveys.

(1) *Addition:* Item 3.4 What percentage of your company's total sales

IIPS Financial Assistance Opportunity

Sensitive Information

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Agency Information

Agency Name:	U.S. Department of Energy
Requiring Activity:	NE - Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE)

Opportunity Information

Funding Opportunity Title:	Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Deployment Studies
Attach XML files from Grants.gov?	Yes
Funding Opportunity Number:	DE-PS01-07NE24448
CFDA Code:	81.121
CFDA Title:	Nuclear Energy Research Initiative
Time Zone for Due Date Times:	Eastern Time
Application Due Date:	06/21/2007
Application Due Time:	11:59 PM
Application Due Date Explanation:	Application Due Date is June 21, 2007
Grant Officer Name:	Lynnette Desorcie
Grant Officer Phone:	202-287-1435
Grant Officer E-mail:	Lynnette.Desorcie@hq.doe.gov
Grant Specialist Name:	Jacqueline Kniskern
Grant Specialist Phone:	202-287-1476
Grant Specialist E-mail:	Jacqueline.Kniskern@hq.doe.gov

Announcement Information

Instrument Type: Grant, Other

Solicitation Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking applications from industry on endeavors to explore the technical and business parameters that would support the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) program. Information is being sought in the areas of business planning, technology development roadmaps, conceptual design studies for GNEP facilities, and a communications plan for disseminating scientific, technical and practical information relating to clsing the fuel cycle. The conceptual design studies for GNEP facilities will focus on providing scope, cost and schedule information for the initial nuclear fuel recycling center and advanced recycling reactor, with capabilities of: 1) separating light water reactor spent nuclear fuel into its reusable components and waste components, 2) reducing the volume, heat load and radio-toxicity of waste requiring geologic repository disposal, and 3) generating electricity with an advanced reactor that consumes transuranic elements as part of its fuel. The business plan, technology development roadmap and communications plan will address approaches to achieve the overall long-term GNEP goals and will be used to inform the public and key stakeholders regarding proposed options for successful GNEP implementation. Applicants with expertise to design, build, and operate GNEP facilities are encouraged to resopnd to this Funding Opportunity Announcement and share their recommendations for GNEP deployment.

Category of Funding Activity: EN - Energy

Explanation of "Other" Category of Funding Activity:

Eligible Applicants: 99 - Unrestricted (i.e. open to any type of entity below) - subject to any clarification in the text field "Additional Information on Eligibility"

Additional Information on Eligibility:

All types of entities are eligible to apply, except other Federal agencies, Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) Contractors, and nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995.
As a result of its unique status in the commercial energy market, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the restriction on funding a Federal Agency is waived with respect to TVA only.

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Type of Action: Competitive

Estimated Total Funding Available: $15,000,000

Expected Number of Awards:	3
Anticipated Award Size:	$5 - $10 million
Award Ceiling:	None
Award Floor:	None
Period of Performance:	6 months
Anticipated Start Date:	09/26/2007

Additional Information

Status:	1. Announcement Issued
Date Posted:	05/09/2007
Archive Date:	09/09/2007

URL Links

Full Announcement & Other Files

Appendix_B.doc	29 KB
AppendixC.pdf	2057 KB
Appendix_D.ppt	144 KB
GNEP_REPORTING_CHECKLIST.doc	98 KB
GNEP_Solicitation.pdf	2265 KB
Appendix_A.doc	61 KB
GNEPAmendment.pdf	119 KB
ATTC8QKP.pdf	119 KB
GNEPAmendment2.pdf	98 KB
GNEPAmendment3.pdf	101 KB
Total:	5.1 MB

Supporting Documents/Amendments for this Financial Assistance Opportunity

Messages; Questions and Answers; 05/17/2007
Document; Questions and Answers Number 2; 05/22/2007
Document; Questions and Answers; 05/24/2007

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact(s):
Angela Hill, (202) 586-4940

For Immediate Release
July 17, 2007

Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Increase Cooperation to Advance Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) expanded cooperation for President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed on Friday by DOE's GNEP Deputy Program Manager Paul Lisowski and NRC Executive Director for Operations Luis Reyes. The MOU establishes the foundation for increased cooperation between DOE and NRC on technological research and engineering studies and marks another important milestone towards closing the nuclear fuel cycle in the United States.

"This MOU represents a significant step in the development of nuclear fuel recycling technologies as envisioned by President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership," DOE's Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon said. "Working with the NRC, DOE is expanding federal involvement in preparation for advanced nuclear power technologies that will increase our nation's energy security."

Through this cooperation memorialized in the MOU, DOE will share the latest information on advanced recycling technologies with the NRC, enabling them to develop license criteria for GNEP facilities. The NRC will also participate in and observe DOE tests, simulations, and demonstrations. NRC will review and provide feedback to DOE on GNEP reports and engineering studies, review literature and take facility tours, and provide annual reports to DOE on work performed under this MOU. DOE and NRC officials agreed to continue to regularly meet and exchange the latest GNEP information.

As part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, GNEP seeks to expand the use of clean, affordable nuclear energy to meet the growing worldwide demand for energy in ways that manage nuclear waste safely, advance non-proliferation objectives, and improve the environment. This MOU builds on over two years of the Department's nuclear fuel cycle research, environmental studies, GNEP facility planning, and international discussion and cooperation. DOE has also engaged international partners through bilateral nuclear agreements to advance research in proliferation-resistant technologies. And in May, the United States hosted a GNEP Ministerial in Washington, DC, where leaders from China, France, Japan, Russia and the United States agreed to work together to bring the benefits of nuclear energy to the world safely and securely. The United Kingdom and the International Atomic Energy Agency also participated as observers in this Ministerial.

Read this MOU and find additional information on GNEP.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact(s):
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For Immediate Release
July 30, 2007

Department of Energy to Award $16 Million for GNEP Studies

Teams to Provide Analysis on Technology Development

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that four consortia have been selected to receive up to $16 million for technical and supporting studies to support President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). AREVA Federal Services, LLC; EnergySolutions, LLC; GE-Hitachi Nuclear Americas, LLC; and General Atomics will each lead teams in developing the cost, scope and schedule for conceptual design studies for an initial fuel recycling center and advanced recycling reactor for GNEP. DOE will negotiate the final terms, under cooperative agreements, with the selected applicants and awards are expected to be finalized by the end of September 2007.

"These studies will contribute to the analysis and inform the research that DOE is conducting to further President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership", Assistant Secretary of Nuclear Energy Dennis R. Spurgeon said. "GNEP seeks to increase the use of safe and clean nuclear energy worldwide in ways that reduces both the proliferation risks as well as nuclear waste."

DOE will use the information and recommendations provided by the teams, as well as other data and analyses, to evaluate the development and deployment of GNEP activities and to inform decision making on the path forward for GNEP. Today's announcement is part of $60 million in funding opportunities announced by Deputy Secretary of Energy Clay Sell in May to engage industry experts in conceptual design of proposed GNEP facilities. The $60 million in funding opportunities will be made available through September 2009, subject to Congressional appropriations.

The FOA sought applications from commercial entities interested in providing technology development roadmaps, business plans, and a communications strategy supporting the GNEP conceptual design studies for the nuclear fuel recycling center and advanced recycling reactor. The technology development roadmaps will describe the state of the current technology, perform a technology "gap" analysis, and define the methods and plans to acquire technology needed to achieve the GNEP goals. The business plans will address how the market may facilitate DOE plans to develop and commercialize the advanced fuel cycle technologies and facilities. The communications plans will focus on the dissemination of scientific, technical, and practical information relating to nuclear energy and closing the nuclear fuel cycle.

GNEP is part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative and seeks to enable the expanded use of economical, carbon-free nuclear energy worldwide to meet growing electricity demand. GNEP seeks to close the nuclear fuel cycle in ways that reduce proliferation risks, reduce waste and further increase global energy security.

Read more information on GNEP or view the FOA at Grants.gov.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

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For Immediate Release
October 1, 2007

Department of Energy Awards More Than $16 Million for GNEP Technology Development Plans

Areva, EnergySolutions, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Americas, and General Atomics to Develop Conceptual Design

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) completed cooperative agreements on Friday with four industry consortia to receive $16.3 million for technical and conceptual design studies to further the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). Today's announcement follows the selections for negotiation of terms under a Funding Opportunity Announcement in July to AREVA; Energy Solutions; GE-Hitachi Nuclear Americas, LLC; and General Atomics to develop studies for a GNEP nuclear fuel recycling center and advanced recycling reactor. Funding under the cooperative agreements awarded last week is as follows: $5.6 million to AREVA; $4.3 million to EnergySolutions, LLC; $4.8 million to GE-Hitachi Nuclear Americas, LLC; and $1.6 million to General Atomics. DOE will evaluate the information and recommendations provided by the teams, as well as other data and analyses, to explore the technical and business parameters that could support the development and deployment of GNEP technology.

"These studies will contribute to the analysis and inform the research that DOE is conducting to further the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership," Assistant Secretary of Nuclear Energy Dennis R. Spurgeon said. "These awards enable DOE to benefit from the vast technological and business experience of the private sector as we move towards the goal of closing the nuclear fuel cycle."

In July, DOE announced that four consortia led by AREVA and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.; EnergySolutions, LLC; GE-Hitachi Nuclear Americas, LLC; and General Atomics were selected to receive up to $16 million. DOE has since negotiated the final terms of the cooperative agreements with the selected applicants and awards have been made for the consortia to provide conceptual design studies, technology development roadmaps, business plans, and a communications strategy in 2008 supporting decisions regarding the GNEP proposal for a nuclear fuel recycling center and advanced recycling reactor.

The following outlines the funding negotiated for each applicant.

AREVA AND MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD. ($5.6 MILLION)
Principal Team Members: Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited; Battelle Memorial Institute; BWX Technologies, Inc.; and Washington Group International

ENERGY SOLUTIONS, LLC (ENERGY SOLUTIONS) ($4.3 Million)
Principal Team Members: The Shaw Group and Westinghouse Electric Company. Additional members: Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL); Booz Allen Hamilton; Nexia Solutions; Nuclear Fuel Services; and Toshiba.

GE-HITACHI NUCLEAR AMERICAS, LLC (GE-HITACHI) ($4.8 Million)
Team Members: Burns and Roe; Ernst & Young; Fluor Corporation; International Business Machines (IBM); and Lockheed Martin.

GENERAL ATOMICS (GENERAL ATOMICS) ($1.6 Million)
Team Members: CH2M Hill; United Technologies Corporation - Hamilton Sundstrand Rocketdyne Division (UTC); a Russian consortium led by OKB Mechanical Engineering (OKBM); Potomac Communications Group; LISTO; and KAERI.

Today's announcement is part of $60 million in funding opportunities announced by the Deputy Secretary of Energy Clay Sell in May to engage industry experts in the conceptual designs for proposed GNEP facilities. The $60 million in funding opportunities includes the current funding announced today of $16.3 million and planned future funding of $44 million that is expected to be made available through September 2009, subject to congressional appropriations and other considerations.

GNEP is part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative and seeks to enable the expanded use of nuclear energy worldwide to meet growing electricity demand. GNEP seeks to close the nuclear fuel cycle in ways that reduce proliferation risks, reduce waste and increase global energy security.

Read more information on the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact(s):
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For Immediate Release
February 1, 2008

United States, France and Japan Increase Cooperation on Sodium-Cooled Fast Reactor Prototypes

WASHINGTON, DC –The U.S Department of Energy (DOE), the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) today expanded cooperation to coordinate Sodium-Cooled Fast Reactor Prototype development through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis R. Spurgeon, CEA Chairman Alain Bugat and JAEA President Toshio Okazaki. The MOU establishes a collaborative framework with the ultimate goal of deploying sodium-cooled fast reactor prototypes. A sodium-cooled fast reactor uses liquid sodium to transfer heat, burning the plutonium and other transuranic elements in the process producing clean, safe nuclear power, less waste and increasing non-proliferation goals.

The U.S., France and Japan currently cooperate within the framework of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) which seeks to expand the use of clean and affordable nuclear energy, as well as in the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) which furthers the research and development of future nuclear energy systems. The sodium-cooled fast reactor technology is one of the most advanced nuclear technologies being researched to date and could potentially be used as an advanced recycling reactor, one of the key components of GNEP. A prototype reactor is the first step to demonstrate the feasibility of the sodium-cooled fast reactor technology to accomplish GNEP objectives and to test advanced technologies that would allow these reactors to be built and operated by private industry on a large scale.

“This MOU supports the nuclear expansion and non-proliferation goals of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership by expanding the signatory parties’ cooperation on a technology that has shown great promise for the next generation of nuclear reactors”, said Assistant Secretary Dennis Spurgeon. “This agreement highlights the continued cooperation between the United States, France and Japan in expanding civilian nuclear energy in a safe, secure and environmentally sustainable manner.”

The three countries will work together to establish design goals and high-level requirements for sodium-cooled fast reactor prototypes; identify common safety principles and key technical innovations to reduce capital, operating and maintenance costs. This cooperation will enable important discussion on power levels, reactor types, fuel types and an appropriate timetable for the potential deployment of prototype facilities.

In addition, the participants plan to pursue joint infrastructure development activities to leverage existing, refurbished and new facilities to support development of the prototype reactors. This could include facilities used for component or safety testing, fuel development, or irradiation and evaluation of materials. There also exists the potential for additional countries to participate in this cooperation.

In signing the MOU, each of the parties affirms its intent to develop advanced fast reactor prototypes according to its respective national program's objectives, and recognizes that each country's individual development of sodium-cooled fast reactor technology should not be duplicative. This cooperation will utilize the technical expertise and resources required to deploy sodium-cooled fast reactor prototypes.

DOE has engaged with several international partners through bilateral agreements to advance research in proliferation-resistant technologies. In September 2007 China, France, Japan, Russia and the United States hosted the second GNEP Ministerial in Vienna, Austria where 35 countries and three intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting and 16 nations signed the Statement of Principles to become GNEP partner countries. Since the ministerial, Italy, Canada and the Republic of Korea, have become official partners by signing the GNEP Statement of Principles, which serves as the framework for the Partnership.

As part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, GNEP seeks to expand the use of clean, affordable nuclear energy to meet the growing worldwide demand for energy in ways that manage nuclear waste safely, advance non-proliferation objectives, and improve the environment. Gen IV explores advances in nuclear energy system design and has engaged governments, industry, and the research community worldwide to broaden the opportunities for the use of nuclear energy.

For more information on DOE's international nuclear cooperation and to read the MOU, visit the Office of Nuclear Energy.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact:
Angela Hill, (202) 586-4940

For Immediate Release
Friday, March 28, 2008

DOE Awards $18.3 Million to Nuclear Industry Consortia for GNEP Studies

Today's announcement follows DOE's award of $16 million last September

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) this week awarded $18.3 million to four industry teams to further develop plans for an initial nuclear fuel recycling center and advanced recycling reactor as part of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). Today's awards include $5.9 million to EnergySolutions; $5.7 million to the International Nuclear Recycling Alliance, led by AREVA and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries; $5.5 million to General Electric-Hitachi; and $1.3 million to General Atomics. These firms will further develop detailed studies that build on conceptual design studies, technology development roadmaps, business plans submitted earlier this year by these four industry consortia.

"The expertise that these industry teams bring to the table provides an important perspective as DOE evaluates technology options and business approaches to close the nuclear fuel cycle," Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis R. Spurgeon said. "This industry analysis and technical planning will inform GNEP decision making and support international cooperation as nations seek to safely expand the benefits of clean, reliable, and affordable nuclear power worldwide."

DOE will use the information and recommendations provided by these studies, as well as other information and analyses, to determine the cost, feasibility and technical aspects of proposed GNEP activities. In January 2008, the four consortia presented their analysis to DOE, which helped determine where additional studies were needed and provided the basis for today's awards. DOE may make another round of awards for additional GNEP studies later this year.

GNEP is part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative and seeks to enable the expanded use of economical, carbon-free nuclear energy worldwide to meet growing electricity demand. GNEP seeks to close the nuclear fuel cycle in ways that reduce proliferation risks, reduce waste and further increase global energy security. For further information on DOE's GNEP and other nuclear energy programs, visit: www.ne.doe.gov.

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

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For Immediate Release
April 17, 2008

DOE Seeks to Invest up to $15 Million in Funding for Nuclear Fuel Cycle Technology Research and Development

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) inviting universities, national laboratories, and industry to compete for up to $15 million to advance nuclear technologies closing the nuclear fuel cycle. These projects will provide necessary data and analyses to further U.S. nuclear fuel cycle technology development, as part of the Department's Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative (AFCI), the domestic technology R&D component of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). Studies resulting from this FOA will include computing and simulation of spent fuel technology, advanced fuel systems analyses and properties of future waste forms. This announcement builds on over $328 million that DOE has provided to universities, national labs and industry since GNEP was announced in February 2006.

"To ensure that we have enough energy to meet growing demands, DOE is partnering with experts across the board to develop the necessary technology to advance the current state of nuclear energy and close the nuclear fuel cycle," said Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon. "Harnessing the power of technology will bring about the solutions to decrease the quantity and radiotoxicity of spent fuel, reduce the proliferation risk and lower greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing our nation's energy security."

In the FOA issued today, DOE is seeking applicants from industry, universities and national laboratories to conduct R&D in the following areas: Used Fuel Separations Technology, Advanced Nuclear Fuel Development, Fast Burner Reactors and Advanced Transmutation Systems, Advanced Fuel Cycle Systems Analysis, Advanced Computing and Simulation, Safeguards and Advanced Waste Forms. Responses are due by May 8, 2008.

As part of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, GNEP aims to accelerate development and deployment of advanced fuel cycle technologies to encourage clean energy development worldwide, responsibly manage nuclear waste, and reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation. In March 2008, DOE announced the next stage of awards to four industry consortia, AREVA Federal Services, LLC; EnergySolutions, LLC; GE-Hitachi Nuclear Americas, LLC; and General Atomics, which included $18 million for additional studies on GNEP conceptual design, technology development roadmaps, and business plans. Over the past two years, DOE has also awarded universities approximately $39 million for research grants and fellowships, to upgrade laboratories and reactor facilities and purchase state-of-the-art equipment for researching advanced nuclear fuel cycle technology. DOE's national labs received approximately $182 million to advance domestic nuclear technology development through AFCI.

View the full contents of the Funding Opportunity Announcement on Grants.gov under number: DE-PS07-08ID14906.

Learn more about GNEP and DOE's other nuclear energy programs at the Office of Nuclear Energy.

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact(s):
Angela Hill, (202) 586-4940

For Immediate Release
April 24, 2008

U.S. Department of Energy and Tennessee Valley Authority Increase Cooperation on Nuclear Fuel Cycle Data

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) this week agreed to collaborate on developing and exchanging information on advanced fuel cycle technologies through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon and TVA Chief Operating Officer William McCollum. This joint effort furthers DOE's ongoing nuclear research and development activities and along with other analyses and studies from nuclear industry, universities and DOE's national laboratories will help to determine the best path forward for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

"We look forward to gaining valuable knowledge and experience in working with TVA to advance the goals of GNEP and expand clean, safe nuclear power," Dennis Spurgeon, DOE's Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy said. "The information provided and utility perspective offered from this partnership will be vital in departmental decisions on GNEP and closing the nuclear fuel cycle in the United States."

This MOU establishes the overall framework for the exchange of information and conduct of activities between the two organizations. Future work associated with this MOU, which would be detailed in an Interagency Agreement to be developed subsequent to the MOU, would be focused on providing supporting data and information to help inform DOE on advanced fuel cycle technology development concepts and include conceptual plans, utility perspectives, suitable business models and additional research and development needed for the advancement of nuclear technology.

"TVA is in a unique position to look for ways to improve how used nuclear fuel could be managed," said TVA Chief Operating Officer William McCollum. "We look forward to working with DOE to determine the best path forward."

TVA currently operates six nuclear reactors as part of its power system, which serves approximately 8.8 million consumers in seven southeastern states. TVA recently restarted a nuclear unit at its Browns Ferry plant, has submitted a Combined License application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for two advanced reactor design nuclear units at its Bellefonte site and has resumed efforts to complete a second nuclear unit at its Watts Bar plant. TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and is completely self-financing. TVA also manages the Tennessee River and its tributaries to provide multiple benefits, including flood damage reduction, navigation, water quality and recreation.

GNEP was announced by President Bush in February 2006 and includes key nuclear research and technology development programs as well as international policy collaboration. Currently, 21 partner

nations have joined the effort to globally expand nuclear power and help meet growing energy demand in a safe and secure manner, while at the same time reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation and responsibly managing spent nuclear fuel.

For more information on this MOU, GNEP and other nuclear energy programs visit the Office of Nuclear Energy.

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